

Thatcher heads for Gulf talks with Bush

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher left London Saturday for the United States for expected talks on the Gulf crisis with President George Bush. As Thatcher flew to New York, where she will begin loading tanks on ships bound for the Gulf, British forces in West Germany began loading tanks on ships bound for the Gulf. Britain is sending its 7th armoured brigade — descendants of the World War II "desert rats" who fought German Panzer divisions across North Africa — to join the multinational force confronting Iraq. The brigade, with 120 tanks as well as other armoured vehicles and artillery, is Britain's first major contribution to ground troops in the Gulf. It already has air and sea forces in the region, including Tornados fighters, Jaguar ground-attack aircraft, two destroyers, two frigates, minehunters and support ships. Government sources said Thatcher was likely to discuss the Gulf with Bush Sunday. It will be their first face-to-face meeting since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, although they have conferred by telephone.

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Qasem meets counterparts

NEW YORK (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem met in the past few days with several foreign ministers taking part in the meetings of the 45th session of the U.N. General Assembly. Qasem met the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Indonesia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, the Soviet Union, Britain, Canada, Greece, France and Iran and discussed with them bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. Qasem is also holding contacts with Arab foreign ministers to discuss ways to solve the Gulf crisis in a way that can solve rifts among Arab states.

Sheikh Jaber sends message to Rafsanjani

NICOSIA (R) — The state minister for foreign affairs in the toppled Kuwaiti government, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad, left Iraq Saturday after three days of talks on the Gulf crisis. Iran's national news agency IRNA said. Sheikh Nasser described his talks with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati as constructive and thanked Iran for its stance on the Gulf crisis. He left Tehran for Dubai, said IRNA, which is received in Cyprus. The Kuwaiti minister delivered a message from the exiled emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The visit was the second by a Kuwaiti minister to Iran since Iraq took over the emirate Aug. 2.

Mauritania sends message to Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Mauritania's interior minister arrived in Baghdad Saturday with a message from his president for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein on developments in the Gulf crisis and bilateral relations. Baghdad Radio reported. The radio said the message from Mauritania President Maouia Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya was carried by Interior Minister Djibril Ould Abdallahi. Mauritania supports Baghdad in the Gulf crisis.

Khaddam visits Egypt today

CAIRO (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam will visit Cairo Sunday, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Saturday. It said Prime Minister Atef Sedki would greet Khaddam at the airport but gave no other details.

Indian ship ferries 700 refugees

BAHRAIN (AP) — The Indian passenger ship Tipu Sultan sailed down the Gulf Saturday carrying some 700 Indian refugees from Kuwait. It was the second time in three weeks that Iraq has allowed the evacuation of stranded foreigners by sea from Kuwait. The Al Safer, also Indian, brought out 725 earlier this month in a 30-hour journey in the sweltering Gulf heat.

Bhutto 'will not be rubber stamp'

KARACHI (R) — Sacked Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto promised bold, uncompromising government if she is returned to power in elections next month. "I will not be a rubber-stamp prime minister," Bhutto told a meeting of businessmen Saturday. "I was not a rubber stamp prime minister (before her Aug. 6 dismissal)," she said. "And I do not want to be a rubber stamp of the decisions of civil servants." Bhutto is due to appear in a Karachi court Sunday to answer charges of abusing power while in office.

Explosion kills 15 in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AP) — An explosion Saturday at the headquarters of the national custodial police on the southern outskirts of Mogadishu killed at least five people, sources said. A source close to the president's office, who declined to be identified, said the explosion appeared to be accidental.

King receives Iraqi message

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and believed contain Iraq's response to a series of Arab and international initiatives to end the crisis. The message was delivered by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who arrived here Saturday morning and left in the evening after talks with the King over lunch. No further details were given by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the message. The talks were attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Aziz was accompanied by Saad Qasem Hammoudi, head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail.

The Iraqi message to Jordan follows several proposals presented by Arab and foreign leaders, including one produced by

the King, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and King Hassan II of Morocco last week, and a four-stage plan tabled by French President Francois Mitterrand at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday. In addition, Tunisia was reported to have made "certain specific suggestions" to facilitate peace efforts.

While it has not commented on the Jordanian-Algerian-Moroccan initiative, Iraq has welcomed the French plan.

Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh is expected to present an initiative to end the Gulf crisis to the Security Council, Jordan Television reported Friday without giving details.

According to a Swedish official, Iraq is now "seriously" studying peace proposals. "We are starting to distinguish certain results," Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Pierre Schori told a news briefing in Stockholm.

"The sanctions have started to bite, we know that, and various peace proposals are for the first time being discussed seriously," he said. He said Sweden has

emissaries in the Gulf region, but he did not elaborate on the peace proposals or the effects of the sanctions.

Mitterrand has suggested that an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait should be followed by an international solution for the Middle East crisis, including the civil war in Lebanon and Palestinian aspirations for an independent state.

"Mitterrand's peace plan has not been rejected but appears in discussions on a serious level," Schori said.

A Jordanian cabinet official told the Associated Press that the Iraqi message to the King dealt "with the tense situation in the Gulf region." He did not elaborate.

In a later telephone interview, the official told the AP Aziz briefed King Hussein on the situation in the Gulf.

"We want to advance peace in this region and reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict," said the official.

He described Aziz's visit and talks here "important, especially in this period."

Parliament opening session postponed until Nov. 18

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday, postponing the opening of the regular session of Parliament from Oct. 1 to Nov. 18, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Parliament ended an unusually lengthy extraordinary session earlier this month. While this was cited by some deputies as the reason for the delay while some others said the exigencies of the Gulf crisis were behind the move. Normally, Parliament opens Oct. 1 and takes a recess January end. It can be called to extraordinary session by a Royal Decree.

"The postponement was expected since the extraordinary session was long," said Amman Deputy Hamam Saeed.

He said, however, deputies had not asked for a postponement and hinted that a possible cabinet reshuffle might have prompted the decision.

Deputy Yaqub Qarash, an independent Islamist deputy from Amman, said he would have preferred to have the House meet as scheduled. "At this stage in the life and history of our country and region, we require increased participation in decision-making by the people's representatives."

"We know that the leadership is under enormous pressure," he said. "But the people can always endure the pressure and support their leadership."

Qarash said he and his fellow Islamist independent Deputy Leith Shbeilat had always

advocated a longer working session of Parliament.

Deputy Thouqan Hindawi noted that the postponement of the session "is within the constitutional powers of His Majesty the King, who can delay the opening up to a period of two months."

"Perhaps the developments in the region and Jordan's position and viewpoints towards these developments might have prompted His Majesty's decision," Hindawi told the Jordan Times.

Deputy Deeb Marji agreed but said, "We would have liked to have taken an active part in the situation."

In any event, he said, the postponement "gives us time to prepare well before the session opens" Nov. 18.

German court rejects election plan

KARLSRUHE (Agencies) — West Germany's highest court on Saturday rejected a plan for a second German election Dec. 2 because it hurts small parties, including East Germany's former communists.

The constitutional court's decision will not stop German unification Wednesday, but it will require parties to agree on a new system for electing a united German parliament — one that will pass the court's standards.

West German Justice Minister Hans Engelhard said his government will try to meet the Dec. 2 election date and respect the decision of the constitutional court.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in the meantime, will be in charge of a united Germany after Wednesday, when his cabinet and the West German parliament will be expanded to include East German representatives.

The constitutional court acted on a complaint brought by East Germany's former Communist Party, the environmental Greens coalition, and the far-right Republicans.

France to 'retaliate' if Iraq linked to Djibouti blast

PARIS (R) — Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Saturday France would retaliate if Iraq was linked to a grenade attack on a crowded cafe in Djibouti that killed a French boy.

The blast Thursday was apparently aimed at off-duty French troops in the Red Sea state who have been reinforced because of the Gulf crisis.

Asked on television what France would do if the attack was traced to Baghdad or its "agents," Dumas said: "There will certainly be French reaction, better believe it, and it will correspond to the odious nature of this attack."

The nine-year-old boy of a French warrant officer was killed and 17 people were injured in the grenade attack on a cafe frequented by off-duty troops. Fifteen of the injured were French.

Reports from Djibouti, rear base for the French military presence confronting Iraqi forces in the Gulf, said investigators had arrested several people, but there was no word on who was responsible for the attack.

Dumas, interviewed in New York by the TV Channel Antenne 2, said the attack coincided with high tension in the Gulf and the massing of international forces to challenge Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

"One can therefore effectively make a link" between the two developments, he said.

There was however "No particular element of investigation or of claim yet to lead to such formal conclusions," Dumas added.

advised to stay indoors. Normally busy bars and hotels were empty and shut early Friday.

They said there was still no clue as to who was behind the attack, and no one has claimed responsibility. But informed sources said some of those arrested were believed to be of Somali origin.

Supporters of Iraq demonstrated in the Somali capital of Mogadishu in support of Baghdad.

Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, France has increased its military presence in Djibouti from the permanent 4,000 troops agreed in a 1977 pact to over 13,000.

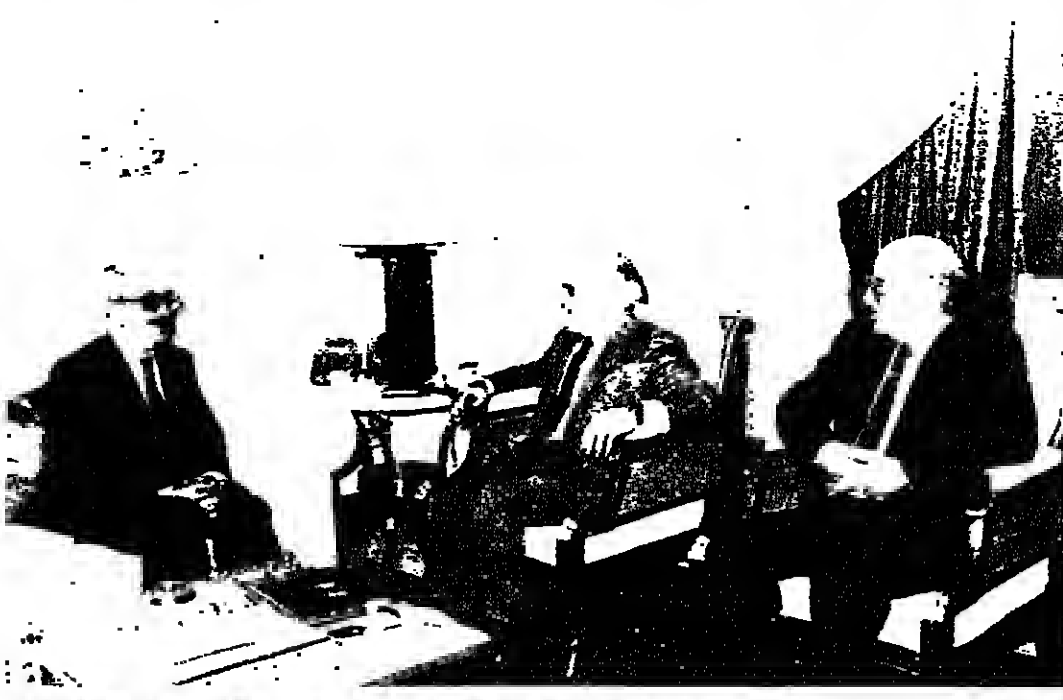
On Thursday Djibouti's Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou met the deposed emir of Kuwait at the United Nations in New York and reaffirmed his country's support for moves to expel all Iraqi forces from Kuwait, newspapers reported Saturday.

A spokesman for the French army said: "Our troops are in Djibouti under accords that recognize its independence. Everything is therefore under the control of the Republic of Djibouti."

Police in Djibouti again questioned a taxi driver who was taken hostage by the four attackers and whose vehicle was used as a getaway car and dumped about 30 kilometres southwest of the city.

Officials said three of the injured were still in a serious condition, including the father of the dead boy.

A French diplomat said the attack on the Cafe de Paris was clearly aimed at French troops stationed in Djibouti.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. At right is Prime Minister Mudar Badran (Petra photo).

Jordan explains its position, problems to world leaders

Crown Prince criticises governments for not living up to aid pledges, meets Baker, Shevardnadze, Quayle and Scowcroft

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday continued his meetings with world leaders attending the United Nations General Assembly after holding a rare round of talks with the foreign ministers of the U.S. and the Soviet Union and criticising governments for not fulfilling their pledge of aid to Jordan to help it cope with the adverse impact of the Gulf crisis on its economy.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the Crown Prince Saturday met with Turkish President Turgut Ozal and exchanged views with him on the Gulf crisis and the latest development in the region.

The Crown Prince Friday described Jordan as seized by "extreme cold anger" over their worsening economic situation and he criticised nations who

pledged to help Amman weather the Gulf crisis but so far had given nothing.

Appearing at a press conference that drew a packed crowd of about 150 journalists and Middle East analysts, Crown Prince Hassan answered questions on Jordan's economic situation.

"Is the stopping of the flow of oil to the Gulf region an economic or political act?" Prince Hassan said of the financial aid that was pledged by many countries to assist states hardest hit by the U.N. embargo against Baghdad.

"If it is political, why are we being punished? Did Jordan invade Kuwait?" he asked.

"Does the barrel that has brought together an alliance unprecedented in modern political history (against Iraq)... go beyond the opposition to the... invasion of Kuwait to include anyone and everyone on the basis of 'you're not on the team'?"

Jordan has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. It has complied with U.N. sanctions, but has informed the world body that it would continue to buy oil from Iraq.

The White House this week said while it understood the difficult pressures Jordan faced, it was "disappointed in the conduct of that country at this point."

"With every perceived attack on Jordan and questioning of Jordan's motive, effectively with every successive wave of evacuees into Jordan, with the virtual closing of port of Aqaba to trade with the outside world, with insurance now rising to 20 and 30 per cent on ships, the situation clearly in the street is one of extreme cold anger," Prince Hassan said.

Jordanians "feel more isolated every day, they feel more desperate every day" and wonder why food is becoming in short supply when Jordan has accepted over 600,000 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait, he said.

"Why should we be taking from our stocks and making this available to governments who have made a great deal about pledging to Jordan but have not yet disbursed those funds in assistance to Jordan, whether over the subject of evacuees or the

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq says foreigners will not be denied food; U.S. steps up pressure

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ DENIED Saturday that foreigners would be deprived of food supplies when a rationing system begins next week.

The United States, Britain and France appeared to be threatening military action, and a senior American official hinted that Washington might seek U.N. approval for use of force against Iraq in the Gulf stand-off.

Mohammad Mehdi Saleh, Iraq's trade minister, said the system of distributing ration cards, to begin Monday, would provide basic foodstuffs in equal shares "for all Iraqis, Arabs, diplomatic missions, foreigners working in Iraq and all those who arrived as guest of Iraq without any preferential treatment for any group."

Guests of Iraq is the term Baghdad applies to Westerners who have been taken to strategic sites in an effort to prevent a military attack on the country.

"There are no instructions whatsoever to deprive any foreign national of the right to benefit from the ration card system, as claimed by some hostile and suspicious media reports within the context of their rabid campaign against Iraq," Saleh said.

Commenting on earlier reports that foreigners in Iraq would be denied food supplies as of Monday, the minister said that what happened is that some countries that have cooperated in Iraq sought through United Nations bodies to secure additional food for their nationals.

He said they sought "quantities of foodstuffs more than 10 times larger than the shares allotted to those included by the ration card system, and when we rejected these unjust demands they embarked on a smear

campaign against Iraq's human treatment of the foreigners."

Talk of Gulf war meanwhile spread Saturday after the White House warned Iraq that its "devastation" of Kuwait could mean a faster course to conflict.

France added its voice with a pledge to retaliate if Iraq was linked to a grenade blast that killed a French boy and wounded 17 people in a bar packed with off-duty troops in Djibouti, rear base for French forces facing Iraq in the Gulf.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was quoted as saying force would be the only option against Iraq if diplomacy and U.N. sanctions failed.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro accused Washington and its European and Arab allies of "banking on war."

U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft hinted time was running out for a peaceful solution after Kuwait's toppled emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, complained to U.S. President George Bush of "atrocities and devastation" by Iraqi forces.

"There's no question that what's happening in Kuwait affects the stability," Scowcroft told reporters Friday.

"Iraq will fail," vowed Bush, saying he and the emir had agreed "that we must keep all our options open to ensure that Iraq's unlawful occupation of Kuwait is ended."

The Washington Post quoted U.S. intelligence reports as saying Iraq was expected to have biological arms ready in a few months to add to its chemical weapons. It said evidence was growing that the White House was "looking favourably on an early war option." (see page 2).

"Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity will be restored," Bush said Friday after meeting with Sheikh Jaber. The White House meeting was intended as a sign that the United States still regards the emir as the legitimate ruler of Kuwait.

Scowcroft said the account could lead the president to push for tougher U.N. action against Iraq, including U.N.-backed military action.

The United Nations has passed nine resolutions condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and meant to force its retreat.

The emir travelled to Washington following a speech Thursday before the United Nations.

"He sees the country being destroyed right in front of his nose," Scowcroft said.

Asked if Sheikh Jaber had asked Bush to use military force to reverse the takeover, the White House official replied: "No, he did not, not in so many words."

China took up the refrain Friday, but omitted its usual criticism of "big power" involvement in the region.

Asked if Iraq would be denied food, the official said: "Iraqi forces would be denied food."

Castro late Friday also repeated a previous call for a negotiated political solution to the Gulf crisis.

"If war broke out... the Third World would explode," he said in a speech marking the 30th anniversary of the creation in Cuba of neighbouring block committees, known as committees for the defence of the revolution.

Castro said war would force oil prices up to \$60 a barrel or more, an unbearable cost for oil-importing Third World countries. The economies of developed nations would also be hit.

"It would be a catastrophe for the world economy," he added. Castro said a negotiated solu-

Badran, Zoubi exchange messages

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kabariti met in Damascus Saturday with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi and delivered a message from Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, did not disclose the contents of the message but noted that Zoubi gave the Jordanian minister a reply message to Badran.

Petra said Kabariti and Zoubi discussed steps taken by Damascus and Amman to implement resolutions passed by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee co-chaired by the two prime ministers, specially in the field of tourism.

Kabariti and his Syrian counterpart Adnan Ouli discussed bilateral cooperation in tourism in the light of a protocol signed by the two sides.

Badran last visited Damascus in August to co-chair the higher joint committee meeting.

Maan council dissolved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and decided to dissolve Maan Municipal Council and form a committee to replace the council for the remaining period of its term.

The committee is chaired by Maan Governor Fahim Al Nawaisch and includes as members Hamed Fayed Al Sharan, Mahmoud Mohammad Al Bazzayh, Ahmad Lutfi Al Khalwaleh, Omar Musa Salah, Adel Shafiq Al Mahamid, Ziad Badi Abdul Dayem, Ahmad Issa Abu Salha, Ahmad Mohammad Mar'i Kreishan, Mahmoud Abu Hilalah and Ibrahim Eid Assaf.

Western diplomats said this subtle change could indicate greater support for, or less opposition to, the U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia.

Iraq's government newspaper Al Jomhuriya again warned of widespread devastation if war broke out. "The battle areas would be multiple and the fires would devour all oil fields, the Zionist entity and agents of America to the region," it said in an editorial.

Hurd, the British foreign secretary, said in an interview published Saturday that force would have to be used against Iraq if diplomacy failed but that a final decision would not be taken for several weeks.

The United Arab Emirates semi-official newspaper Al Itihad quoted Hurd as saying that Iraq would not be

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Castro: Third World will explode

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has warned "the Third World would explode" from the economic shock of soaring oil prices if war broke out in the Gulf.

Castro late Friday also repeated a previous call for a negotiated political solution to the Gulf crisis.

"If war broke out... the Third World would explode," he said in a speech marking the 30th anniversary of the creation in Cuba of neighbouring block committees, known as committees for the defence of the revolution.

Castro said war would force oil prices up to \$60 a barrel or more, an unbearable cost for oil-importing Third World countries. The economies of developed nations would also be hit.

"It would be a catastrophe for the world economy," he added. Castro said a negotiated solu-

tion would have to include the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait but also the withdrawal of U.S. and other Western forces from the region.

"This conflict can and must be resolved politically... not to achieve a political solution would be a disaster for humanity," he said.

He described as "repugnant" what he said was a U.S. attempt to starve the Iraqi people into surrendering through an economic blockade. But he also condemned Baghdad for holding foreign nationals as virtual hostages.

The Cuban leader criticised the U.N. Security Council for empowering the United States and its allies to mount a naval and air blockade against Iraq. Cuba has consistently opposed the economic and military blockade and argued that it should not include food and medicine.

Big powers reject linkage of Gulf crisis with Palestine

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The foreign ministers of the big five powers on the U.N. Security Council Friday agreed to support an "active negotiating process" on the Arab-Israeli conflict but rejected any linkage to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a senior Western official said.

Ministers from the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China, permanent members of the council, met Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to give him their views on the Gulf crisis and Cambodia, main issues of close cooperation among the five in the past few months.

In a communique, the five said Iraq's "aggressive action" against Kuwait must not be tolerated and demanded again that Baghdad withdraw from Kuwait and allow all foreign nationals to leave the two countries.

Expressing deep concern at the

increased tension in the Middle East, the five "reaffirmed their determination to support an active negotiating process in which all relevant parties would participate, leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

In particular they agreed on the right to security for all states in the region, including Israel and supported the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people.

But the senior official said the five refused to accept attempts by Iraq to link withdrawal from Kuwait to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict as this would damage progress on both issues.

But at the same time he said it was essential to give high priority to the Palestinian problem.

Iraq as well as other Arab and Third World countries have frequently pointed to the big powers' quick action on the Gulf compared to every other conflict

in the Middle East. The official said the five thought there was little chance for Perez de Cuellar, who has pleaded for a negotiated rather than a military solution to the crisis, to resume discussions with Iraqi officials for the time being.

"There was no prospect at the moment for the secretary general to take up his role of good offices... as there were no signs from the Iraqi side of a willingness to listen or to talk," he said.

In their communique the five also reaffirmed their "strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon."

Foreign ministers at the session were Qian Qichen of China, Roland Dumas of France, Eduard Shevardnadze of the Soviet Union, Douglas Hurd of Britain and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Iraq 'biological warfare capability' reportedly growing

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. intelligence has reported that Iraq will have a significant number of biological weapons ready for battlefield use in a few months, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

The Iraqi arsenal was reported to include weapons that can spread anthrax, an airborne virus that causes haemorrhaging and may be fatal, the newspaper quoted intelligence and congressional officials as saying.

The intelligence report was disclosed by Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, the paper said. Aspin was quoted as saying it would be an "added ingredient" in Bush administration's consideration of any military action against Iraq.

Recent discussions between President George Bush and the congressional leadership indicated there was "more and more evidence that the administration is looking favourably on an early war option."

Aspin, a Wisconsin Democrat, could not be reached for further comment. It was not clear where he had been speaking.

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster said in congressional testimony last year that Iraq was developing biological weapons with the aid of equipment bought in Western Europe.

Aspin was quoted as saying Iraq was expected to have a military significant biological programme by the end of this year or early next year.

"This will be a new dimension to the problem. It is a more important and more serious element than the chemical threat. It is a harder thing to deal with," the Post quoted him as saying.

Biological weapons are considered a more deadly threat than chemical weapons because they can be deployed covertly with little chance of immediate detection and can linger and do damage for an extended time.

Chemical weapons have an almost immediate effect on the body and tend to disperse quickly in the atmosphere and become impotent.



Toshiki Kaifu

not be forgiven" and said Japan was considering changing its laws to allow it to take part in U.N. peacekeeping efforts.

But he pledged that Japan would never again become a military power.

"We have learned our lesson never to be a military power," he said, referring to the Japanese defeat in World War II.

Kaifu added: "There are voices that the United States is in decline, but there is no change of the U.S. role in the world. The United States has a global ability to maintain peace and order in the world and we still need the United States as a deterrent against incursions in various parts of the world."

But he added: "It is important we not rely on the United States alone to maintain world order."

Japanese prime minister defends Gulf response

NEW YORK (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has defended his country's response to the Gulf crisis and said Japan was among the first to act following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"I believe that it was only the next day... that we decided to freeze the overseas Kuwaiti assets," Kaifu said in a U.S. television interview after being told there was a feeling in the United States that Japan's response had been little and late.

Kaifu, speaking through an interpreter, said Japan's contribution was the largest of the industrialised countries.

Japan has pledged \$2 billion to Jordan, Egypt and Turkey, among the hardest hit by the imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq. Japan has earmarked another \$2 billion for the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

He also challenged the perception that Japan joined the multinational effort and increased its contribution only after considerable international pressure.

Kaifu, who was scheduled to meet President George Bush Saturday, earlier Friday pledged his country's help in resolving the crisis, saying that the United States could not be expected to solve world problems alone.

Speaking at New York University where he received an honorary degree, Kaifu said the invasion of Kuwait "can-

Asian plan for Gulf peace in the offing

NEW YORK (AP) — Bangladesh President Hussein Muhammad Ershad said Friday six Asian Muslim nations would present an initiative urging Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, restore its elected government and join in regional disarmament.

In a luncheon meeting with executives of the Associated Press here, Ershad said Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives and Pakistan soon would make their appeal to Iraq.

Together, he said, those nations represent more than 400 million Muslims.

"We have a solid front and hope to exert moral pressure," said Ershad. "We think that as Muslim countries we should do everything possible" to help resolve the crisis.

But he did not indicate optimism that Iraq would be responsive.

But if he accedes, Ershad said, then Middle East states should agree to regional disarmament in order to reduce the risk of war.

Ershad was in New York to address the U.N. General Assembly and attend the weekend's world summit for children. He also will meet with U.S. President George Bush to discuss the Gulf crisis and other issues.

Bangladesh has contributed 3,000 troops to the multinational force in Saudi Arabia, including infantry, engineers, supply and medical corps, strictly for defensive purposes, he said.

U.S. admiral says Gulf embargo is '100 per cent'

ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (AP) — The commander of the American battle group patrolling outside the Gulf said Friday he doubted that ships were evading the United Nations embargo against Iraq by hugging the Iranian coast.

"Personally I feel that we are being 100 per cent effective," said Rear Admiral Jerry Unruh. "Iraq may be loading their ships with oil, but their ships are not coming out."

Unruh, who commands a nine-ship battle group from aboard the Independence, refused to confirm that the 79,000-ton carrier was soon to enter the Gulf, as has been reported in recent days.

The Independence, homeported at San Diego, California, was already on station in the

Indian Ocean when Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

It has operated since then in the North Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman, where its escort vessels are participating in the U.N.-backed international economic blockade against Baghdad.

More than 1,500 ships have been intercepted by American and other warships in the six-week-old effort, mostly in the Red Sea.

About 100 ships have been boarded by inspection teams to check whether they had Iraq-related cargo.

Shipping sources in the Gulf have suggested further that some vessels might be dodging the embargo by following the Iranian coastline from the Strait of Hormuz to the northern Gulf.

U.S. military sources said earlier this week that the Independence was to enter the Gulf in a "show of strength" against Iraq.

But Unruh told a group of visiting journalists: "I cannot speculate on the type of operations that we will have in the future. We are still operating in the same way that we have been operating for the past six weeks."

The military sources, who insisted on anonymity, said the carrier's sortie into the Gulf would be brief, and intended mainly to permit drills by the carrier's air wing and crew in waters where the ship likely would be deployed in event of war with Iraq.

Should that occur, the Independence's force of some 75 air-

craft would be used to defend American ships and attack Iraqi targets in support of U.S. ground forces.

Being inside the Gulf would cut combat flying and refuelling time by half or more of what it would be from the Gulf of Oman, 960 to 1,280 kilometres from Iraq and Kuwait.

The only previous entry by a jet carrier to the Gulf was in 1974, when the USS Constellation made a brief visit.

Air officers said planes from the Independence flying daily combat air patrols over the Gulf had not encountered any Iraqi aircraft, and as far as was known, had not been "locked on" by Iraq's land-based missile defences.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

British politicians denied entry to Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Customs officers denied entry to three British politicians accompanying former President Ahmad Ben Bella on his return from exile, the British embassy reported. The Britons were among 17 people, mostly French and Greek, refused entry when the ship carrying Ben Bella and some 500 journalists and sympathisers docked in Algiers Thursday. A British embassy spokeswoman said the Britons were denied entry because they lacked visas. A new law that took effect April 1 requires nationals of Algeria and Britain to acquire visas prior to visiting the other country. Algerian officials did not allow members of the embassy to meet the Britons before they were packed aboard an overnight ferry for Marseille, France, the spokeswoman said.

French legionnaires arrive in S. Arabia

YANBU (AP) — The first units of the French Foreign Legion arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday, joining the largest deployment of French forces overseas since Algeria's war of independence. About 150 of the hardened desert force of 2,300 marched off the Ferry Le Corse, which docked in this Red Sea port at noon (0900 GMT) after an eight-day trip from Toulon. The bulk of the French ground forces of 4,000 are expected to arrive Sunday at the vast, new industrial complex here. "Heat is our first enemy," said an officer who identified himself as Captain Renard, in charge of the first company of the 2nd Foreign Legion infantry regiment based in Nîmes, France.

Italian warship transits Suez Canal

SUEZ (AP) — The Italian frigate Zeffireo transited the Suez Canal Saturday en route to the Gulf, canal officials said. It will join three other Italian military vessels stationed in the region as part of an international armada assembled after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. They are the frigates Libeccio and Orsa and the support ship Stromboli. A squadron of eight Tornado fighters that arrived in the United Arab Emirates last Tuesday is providing air cover for the Italian warships. Zeffireo's canal transit coincided with a meeting in Cairo between Italian Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni and his Egyptian counterpart, Youssef Sabry Abu Taleb. The two ministers told reporters they discussed bilateral military cooperation and the Gulf crisis but gave no details. Rognoni, who arrived Friday night, left for Saudi Arabia immediately after the talks.

U.S. deplores Sudanese bombing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Sudanese government is threatening an international relief effort by bombing towns in rebel-held areas where assistance programmes are in operation, the State Department said Friday. U.S. Ambassador James Cheek has raised the issue with Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir but has received no assurance that the bombing will stop, said deputy spokesman Richard Boucher. "These bombings are a threat to the relief effort in Sudan," he said. "Relief workers cannot operate if their lives are in jeopardy from military action," Boucher said. "It is bitterly ironic that these bombings come at a time when Sudan is undergoing a drought which will make a massive relief effort necessary next year." The combination of drought and civil war eventually is expected to put millions of lives at risk in Sudan, according to independent estimates. A Sept. 20 attack on the town of Bor, Boucher said, occurred while U.N. and international Red Cross relief planes were on the ground in that town.

Pope worries about risk of war

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has warned that the world is on the verge of a war that threatens the future of mankind. John Paul expressed his concern during a mass in St. Peter's Basilica and in a message sent to a meeting of representatives of various religions in the southern Italian city of Bari. During the mass, John Paul said that the risk of war "seems to be hanging over humanity in this moment," clearly referring to the Gulf crisis. "We are all deeply aware that the peaceful coexistence of mankind is at stake, our future is at stake," John Paul said. In the message read in his name at the closing ceremony in Bari, the Pope expressed "deep trepidation" over events in the Gulf.

1,000 more Egyptians off to Saudi Arabia

CAIRO (AP) — About 1,000 soldiers left by ship for Saudi Arabia to join Egyptian units deployed there, military sources said Saturday. They said the soldiers left Friday night from the Mediterranean port Alexandria. The fresh troops will bring to about 12,500 the number of Egyptians in the Saudi force. Additional units, all from the 3rd armoured division, will be sent in the coming week. The sources said by week's end, the Egyptian contingent will be about 14,000 men. President Hosni Mubarak told reporters Thursday that Egypt's present commitment is 14,000 men but indicated the number may increase. Mubarak refused to confirm reports that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd sent him a letter a few days ago requesting more Egyptian troops. "It's a secret," Mubarak told his questioner.

Turkey refuses to unload Iran-bound chemicals

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish sea customs officials have refused to unload from a Polish ship chemicals bound for Iran after receiving a tip that the cargo contained raw materials for mustard gas, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. A government official at the department of customs confirmed the report but declined to give further details. According to Anatolia, the ship, Wloclawek, carried 101,640 kilograms of sodium cyanide and 31,440 kilograms of neoprene shipped by the West German company and loaded at the Belgian port of Antwerp. The report did not give the name of the company. It said the tip came from Turkish officials at the southern port of Mersin, which was given to Turkish officials by U.S. customs agents. Anatolia, which quoted unnamed customs officials in Ankara as saying the ship lacked proper documents for its cargo, said the material would be shipped back to the country of origin.

Kabul faces new rebel challenge

KABUL (R) — Afghan President Najibullah has mobilised his armed forces in a show of strength amid rising fears of a new Mujahideen guerrilla push against the capital Kabul.

An unexplained explosion in the diplomatic enclave of Kabul shook buildings Wednesday, and sent nervous residents fleeing for safety indoors.

Large numbers of heavily-armed troops took up positions around government buildings, while tanks and armoured carriers raced along the roads.

A few days earlier, Najibullah, in an address to the country's top military commanders, said: "The Afghan armed forces have made untiring efforts to preserve the gains and to paralyse the armed activities of the extremists."

He praised the role of the military in what he called 20 months of defence against Western and Pakistan-backed Mujahideen guerrillas without the support of Soviet troops who were withdrawn in February 1989.

The address came as reports from Pakistan's border city of Peshawar spoke of fresh weapons supplies moving through the Afghan countryside to the capital.

Confirming these reports, Afghanistan's first deputy defence minister, General Nabi Azimi, said: "Yes, the extremists have received more weapons, and they have strengthened their positions around Kabul."

"But we are ready to face the

enemy any time," he added. There is widespread concern in Kabul over the security of the capital and over the recent intensification of fighting in at least six provinces.

Guerrilla activity has markedly increased in the southern border provinces of Kandahar, Nangarhar, Zabul and Paktia. In the north, there have been rebel attacks in Herat and Badghis. Heavy fighting in Badghis early this month was major setback to Najibullah's efforts towards national reconciliation.

"Badghis province had not been affected by the conflict until now," one diplomat said.

Guerrillas led by Ismail Khan of the Jamiat-e-Islami group launched a frontal attack on the provincial capital Qalay-Naw on Sept. 2, quickly laying siege to the city.

There were fears the city could fall until the government air dropped troop reinforcements, and a convoy of food trucks reached the city.

"The situation is serious but not critical now," a highly-placed military source said.

It is widely acknowledged the Mujahideen are no longer able to capture Kabul, Jalalabad or even Khost, the nearest town to their bases across the border in Pakistan.

However, they can launch daring raids to attract the attention of their main backers — the United States and Saudi Arabia, now preoccupied with the Gulf crisis.

China urges Arab mediation in Gulf

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — China has urged Iraq to immediately withdraw its forces from Kuwait and heed Arab mediation, but it did not repeat its usual comments opposing "big power" military involvement in the Gulf.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told the U.N. General Assembly that his government calls "on all the parties concerned to exercise restraint and avoid resorting to force."

Qian, speaking in Chinese through a translator, also called Iraq's invasion of Kuwait a violation of the U.N. Charter and a gross trampling on the accepted norms governing international relations.

China, however, also has been wary of the U.S. military involvement in the region and adamantly has opposed the use of force, but it has supported all nine Security Council resolutions condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. The resolutions include trade sanctions against Baghdad, enforced by an air and sea blockade.

But in virtually every statement at the United Nations since the crisis erupted, China has said the superpower involvement could further upset an already destabilised region. Arab efforts, it says, are crucial in ending the crisis.

The latest omission of the usual

Chinese resistance to "big power" involvement in the region was noted by Western diplomats. They said this subtle change could be significant in possibly indicating greater support for, or less opposition to, the U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze earlier in the week also signalled a shift in Soviet opposition to the eventual possibility of using force to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait.

Qian, the Chinese minister, emphasised that China is respecting U.N. resolutions, including the economic sanctions against Iraq.

"Despite its heavy losses resulting from enforcing sanctions," he said, "China has strictly implemented these resolutions."

He did not elaborate on China's losses, but some Asian diplomats estimated China might be losing as much as \$4 billion from the loss of trade with Iraq and due to increased oil prices since the invasion.

On Cambodia, Qian urged the election of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as president of the Supreme National Council. China is the primary military and financial backer of the Khmer Rouge, one of the four Cambodian parties which recently agreed to form a Supreme National Council to run the country and fill the U.N. seat.

OBITUARY

Mr. Fareed Khalaf
prominent businessman and proprietor of Khalaf Stores, has passed away at age 79. Burial services will be held at The Church Cemetery at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday 30/9/1990.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
15:50 Football
16:00 News summary
16:10 Local programme
16:20 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:40 Arabic series
16:50 Programme review
17:00 Local programme
17:10 News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO
17:55 Cartoons
18:10 Short film
18:20 News in French
18:30 Classical music
18:40 News in Hebrew
18:50 Variety programme
19:00 Local programme
19:10 Documentary: "The Four Horsemen"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Thin Air

PRAYER TIMES

04:57 Fajr
05:24 Sunrise/Duha
12:26 Dhuhr
14:50 Asr
17:28 Maghreb
18:45 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622346
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625393, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 658326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Some low clouds will appear and a drop in temperatures will occur with a chance of showery rain in the northern parts of the country. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba,

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

winds will be southerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 26
Aqaba 22 / 35
Dahsh 16 / 30
Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings:
Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalidoun Kloub 826919
Dr. Wa'el Abdul Qader 774800
Dr. Khalid Abdul Qader 795392
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'er 791400
Firas pharmacy 622520
Ferdous pharmacy 773336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeccani pharmacy 637960

IRBID:
Dr. Amwar Obeidat (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Maysoon Hanna (—)
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630541
Rescue 642816
Civil Defence Emergency 109
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 605800
Press Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeccani 6641714
Shmeccani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdas 6661257
Al-Ahli, Abdal 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir 7770103
Al-Basur, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Anad Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727755
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Doha (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 Cairo (RJ)
11:45 Paris, Rome (RJ)
17:45 Madrid (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 Istanbul (RJ)
18:45 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
18:55 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:00 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:30 Rome (AZ)
09:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Tripoli (LN)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:30 Beirut (ME)
22:45 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 London (RJ)
12:55 Istanbul (RJ)
17:15 Agaba (RJ)
20:30 Doha (RJ)
20:30 Damascus (RJ)
20:30 Larnaca (RJ)
20:30 Riyadh (RJ)
21:30 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:30 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Labour delegations to present view on Gulf crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegations from labour federations in six Arab countries will be soon dispatched on tours of several countries to present the Arab workers' view with regard to the Gulf crisis.

The delegations, representing the workers of Jordan, Palestine, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco will be visiting Iran, China, the Soviet Union, Belgium, France and Italy with this mission, according to Abdal Halim Khaddam, the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions secretary-general.

He said that the delegations would advocate the cause of evicting the foreign troops from the Arabian peninsula and settling the dispute within an Arab framework.

Gulf crisis puts transport sector under pressure

By Serene Halasa

AMMAN — The Public Transport Corporation has been having its share of problems due to the recent Gulf crisis, and the immediate need to use a number of its buses to transport the enormous number of evacuees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait, into Jordanian territories.

According to an article in Saturday's Al Ra'i newspaper, 36 buses of the Public Transport Corporation are used in transporting evacuees. "We do not think we will increase the number of buses helping out with the transportation of evacuees," Marwan Khitan, director of Transport and Employment Department told the Jordan Times in a telephone conversation.

"We are participating in the process of transporting evacuees, to help reduce other

problems that might occur if the evacuees are not transported quickly out of the Kingdom, such as increased economic problems, food shortages, health problems," Khitan added.

Although the corporation has a fleet of 300 buses, only 250 buses, including the 36 used for the transport of evacuees, are used daily in the Kingdom. "Our buses are 10 years old, some are as old as 15 years, that is why they need continuous maintenance; about 50 buses a day are sent for maintenance," Khitan said.

Pictures of people waiting in long lines for buses to take them to their respective locations were shown in Al Ra'i newspaper Monday. "Some inconvenience such as the bus arriving 10 or 15 minutes late, or overcrowded buses have occurred because of the pressure put upon us in helping out

with the evacuees, but this is a temporary emergency, and when things quiet down we will go back to regular business," Khitan said.

Khitan also added that more pressure had been placed on the corporation, especially with the recent Gulf crisis, and with more people relying on public transportation rather than using their cars. "They (the public) figure that by cutting down on using their cars they will cut down on expenses such as gasoline, car insurance, maintenance and so on," Khitan added.

Asked about the intention to buy new buses as published in the Al Ra'i article, Khitan said that the government and other transport officials had been studying the possibility of obtaining new buses but no definite time of purchase or number is known yet.

King Hussein wishes success to World Summit for Children

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a message to James Grant, executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New York, in reply to a message in which the UNICEF chief voiced his regret over the King's absence from the World Summit for Children held at the U.N. headquarters in New York.

"Nothing would have given me greater pleasure and pride than to have been with you at the summit, and among all those others who have contributed their best efforts to make the summit a success, and who, through true dedication to the worthwhile objectives, have seen to it that an earlier vision grew into the present reality," the King said in his reply message.

"That I should be considered by you all to be one of you is enough reward in itself, and I shall cherish this for the rest of

my life as I endeavour to further the cause which has inspired the efforts and ideals that we proudly share in our total commitment to children's rights. For children represent the future to which we have dedicated our lives: for their rights to apply equally everywhere on this planet without exception nor prejudice," the King added.

"I am touched by the recognition of Jordan's efforts and successes referred to as a model achievement in 'Child Survival Development Revolution'; that since 1960, Jordan has been one of the outstanding half-dozen countries in the world to have cut the infant mortality rate, which has been reduced from 75 to 30 per thousand births since 1980. That in the area of immunisation, Jordan has immunised 90 per cent of our under-ones; that we reached the 1990 universal immunisation goal in 1988, and that

we are in the forefront of the control of diarrheal diseases, and that in the summer 1988 campaign case fatality rate was reduced by half. That Jordan's programme was one of three country case examples chosen to represent the Arab region at the March 1990 World Education Conference in Thailand, and that additionally remarkable, primary school gender balance has been achieved in Jordan, where 48 per cent of upper-grade students are girls," said the King.

"I hope, Sir, that you and all our colleagues may kindly accept that had it not been for the very serious crisis in the region, which threatens not only life's achievements and the human rights of all peoples in this area and beyond, to live in peace and security for generations to come, and my total commitment to attempting to prevent the disaster of the

ugliest kind of war from erupting, and to achieve a peaceful acceptable solution of the problem, then nothing would have prevented me nor His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and some representatives of young Jordanians, from attending the summit," the King added.

"We pray for God's blessings and greater cooperation amongst us all to secure for all the world's children their equal rights in a brighter tomorrow. My consolation, under the circumstances, is that Her Majesty Queen Noor, who has been totally committed from the outset to our cause and has always contributed to our achievements in Jordan, will be with you at this time. I look forward to receiving from her the expected and anticipated news of a most successful summit and an important landmark in the worthwhile cause of our human endeavours," the King concluded.

Symposium reviews water situation in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — An environmental pollution symposium dealing with "Water Pollution in Jordan: Causes and Effects" opened at the University of Jordan Saturday with the participation of local, Arab and international experts and representatives of various ministries and universities in Jordan.

A total of 14 working papers, dealing with pollutants contained in waste coming from homes, factories and other sources, as well as economic consequences resulting from the pollution of water in the country, will be reviewed by the delegates at the two-day meeting which was organised by the University of Jordan (Water Research and Study Centre), the Goethe Institute in Amman and the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (Foundation) in Amman.

Addressing the opening session was university President Mahmoud Al Samra, who said "the pollution along with the rapid depletion of natural resources and population explosion, are among the main concerns of the modern world."

Samra said that dumping of industrial waste in the ground, at sea and other places has adversely affected surface and underground water resources and has polluted drinking water.

Goethe Institute Director Heinrich Reinström voiced appreciation of the University of Jordan's efforts to find means to deal with water pollution in Jordan. The West German government, he said, gives due attention to research and study related to pollution and environment questions in general.

The symposium, according to the organisers, aims at assessing the present situation of water qualities in Jordan as affected by urbanisation, industrialisation and agricultural development. They said that the participants would review working papers discussing the present water pollution in Jordan and hazardous factors such as solid waste disposal sites, effluents of wastewater, treatment plants, industries or cesspools.

They pointed out that the increase in population and urbanisation, the accelerated agricultural development and the rapid establishment of industries had led in the last few decades to increasing water consumption and the production of all types of waste.

Among those attending the meeting was Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arahayyat and several heads of departments.

Japanese legislator heads for Baghdad with call for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mrs. Wakako Hironaka, a member of the Upper House of the Japanese Diet, will travel to Baghdad from Amman today to meet with senior Iraqi officials, possibly including President Saddam Hussein, to appeal for the release of foreign nationals detained there.

In Baghdad, Hironaka will deliver a petition from women legislators around the world to President Saddam Hussein calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages in Iraq and Kuwait. The petition, in the form of individually signed letters, is endorsed by all forty six women lawmakers in Japan's Diet, as well as by delegates to the Fifth International Conference of World Women Parliamentarians for Peace, held in Harare, Zimbabwe from September 24-26. The Japanese parliamentarian arrived in Amman Friday en route to Baghdad.

Hironaka hopes to bring to bear the force of the international women's network, led by women legislators, as a voice for peaceful resolution of the current crisis. Speaking in Amman, Hironaka said: "Throughout history, women have been the quiet sufferers of war. We have not had a say in the cause of our own suffering. Women's voices should be represented."



Wakako Hironaka

Hironaka called on women legislators to use their positions to speak out for people across the globe yearning for peace.

Hironaka emphasised that her petition and visit to Iraq are only the first steps toward mobilising women to appeal for peace in the Middle East. She urged women parliamentarians everywhere to take up the initiative and send letters of appeal to the Iraqi Embassy in their home country. "Women comprise half of the world's population," commented Hironaka. "United, we form a powerful chorus for peace in this time of crisis. I believe Saddam Hussein will listen."

Symposium tackles smoking, danger it poses to health

Amman (J.T.) — Health Minister Mohammad Addonh Al Zaben Saturday emphasised the need to find means of protecting non-smokers from the danger of smoke and to enforce a low hanging smoking in all public places like public transport, restaurants, clubs and cinemas.

Addressing the opening session of a symposium organised by the Anti-Smoking Arab Society (ASAS) the minister said that the danger of smoking was posed to all sectors of society in Jordan and "it is time for drastic measures to be taken to deal with this danger and to protect the non-smokers from it."

In January 1988 the health minister said that the 1977 law banning smoking in public places would be enforced and fines would be imposed on the violators. It also was announced that Jordan would continue to observe April 7 as a non-smoking day, as called for by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Former health minister and ASAS President Zuhair Malhas said the 1977 law was enforced in Jordan to protect non-smokers from the danger of cigarette smoke, responsible for many diseases, among which cancer. "Despite the society's endeavours to fight smoking it has not yet succeeded in spreading sufficient

awareness among members of the public as to the real danger of this bad habit," said Malhas. He said that smoking "does not affect the body alone but it has adverse social and economic effects on the society."

Delegates representing various ministries, Jordanian universities and other concerned departments discussed several topics related to smoking and its danger, the planting of tobacco in Jordan, the dangerous effects of smoking on the fetus, the role of police officials, in combating smoking and different ways to fight the habit of smoking.

The participants called for banning teachers at schools and universities from smoking at their places of work, in front of their students.

On the eve of the symposium the society issued a call to all Arab smokers to refrain from smoking American-made cigarettes, to give up the habit altogether and to contribute the saved money to the children of Iraq and those of Palestine now involved in an uprising against the Israeli occupation.

WHO and ASAS co-sponsored a three-day conference on smoking in September last year, urging government and organisations to do all they can to fight smoking.

Wedding tragedy

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The death toll from a wedding tragedy which occurred in the northern town of Ramtha Friday rose to 13 Saturday with the death of bride Yasmin Diabat, according to Ramtha government hospital Director Farouk Dibajeh.

He said that the bride, Yasmin Diabat, died at Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid where she had been transferred for intensive care after arriving at the Ramtha hospital in serious condition.

Dibajeh told the Jordan Times that a total of 19 persons had been brought to hospital on Friday afternoon, 12 were found to have died instantly after drowning in the cesspool and swallowing waste water while seven were found suffering from various injuries.

According to Dibajeh, the seven were offered immediate medical attention and were discharged Saturday — all were described to be in good condition.

The incident occurred during the wedding of two brothers Ibrahim and Ahmad Awad Tarini, with men and women rejoicing over the happy occasion by dancing and singing in two separate rooms.

According to eyewitnesses, the floor of the room where the two brides and the women were gathered suddenly collapsed onto a cesspool which lay underneath the building, instantly killing 11 women including one of the brides and an 11-year-old child Kafa Mohammad Diabat.

The Civil Defence Department was alerted and rescue men rushed to the scene of the incident only to pull out 12 dead bodies and seven injured men and women, according to Dr. Dibajeh.

Dr. Dibajeh said that the rush of the local people towards the hospital and the scene of the incident made it rather difficult for rescue men and doctors to carry out their duty.

With royal air force fighter units already in the Gulf.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has issued a political testament calling for massive retaliation against Israel, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. in the event of his death, a Dutch radio station reported Friday.

The instructions were contained in a document issued after the outbreak of the Gulf crisis to the Revolutionary Command Council, which would rule Iraq in case of Saddam's death, according to the government-funded Avro radio station.

The report by Avro's correspondent in Nicosia, Hetty Lubberding, did not give a source for the information or specify exactly when the paper was written.

The document, which Avro said amounted to an alteration to Saddam's last will and testament, called for massive attacks on Tel Aviv, Riyadh and all oil fields in the Mideast, the radio said.

Saddam was also ordering all-out attacks against American targets worldwide and instructed that "as much oil as possible should be made to flow into Gulf waters" in the event of war, the radio said.

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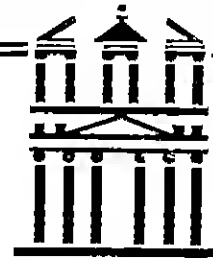
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Petra Bank

ANNOUNCEMENT

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition at the Jordan Plastic Art Association.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Cultural Resources Management" by Ruba Kam'an at the British Council 5:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Picking up the pieces

THE FRENCH peace initiative presented to the General Assembly by President Francois Mitterrand on Sept. 24 was welcomed as positive not only by Iraq, Jordan and other parties. The U.S., the Soviet Union and the European Community also detected constructive elements in it that should be pursued, albeit to different degrees.

Yesterday's visit to Amman by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to deliver a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has to be seen as an important link to the political momentum generated by that initiative as well as the Rabat summit effort to find an Arab context for a Gulf solution.

Although only scant information has been disclosed about the Moroccan-Algerian-Jordanian peace ideas touted in Rabat, they nevertheless do not appear to be in conflict with the French peace thoughts. On the contrary the two peace initiatives appear to be complementary to one another.

As the Soviet Union and some other Western countries are already on record as supporting the French ideas for peace in the Gulf and the U.S. has expressed guarded optimism about it, other parties, notably Saudi Arabia and Egypt, remain conspicuously absent from this effort. If the absentees prefer a belligerent approach to Baghdad in a way that rules out a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, it is their business. There are some countries directly connected with the conflict which have developed a vested interest in the military option and have linked their well-being and self-interest with war rather than with peace in the Gulf. President Mitterrand, however, came forward to change the mood of the hysterical world, especially the West, by offering peace a genuine chance in the region. By so doing, France has demonstrated once again that it is listening to the voice of reason and as such deserves understanding and respect.

What is needed now is to pick up the pieces and give the embryonic peace process in the Gulf a chance to develop before it is strangled to death by war obsessed countries. The only operational peace proposal is the only one that offers a basis for dialogue and negotiations between the antagonists. The French proposal takes the front seat in the peace endeavours. The extraordinary communique issued by the Soviet Union and the EC countries Wednesday contains an implied endorsement of the French ideas and a departure from Washington's insistence on shooting its way in the Gulf conflict. By highlighting the need to pursue a peaceful settlement of the Kuwaiti situation and establishing a link between the crisis with the other pressing conflicts of the Middle East, be they in Palestine or Lebanon, Moscow and the West European capitals have come a long way to understand the Arab anxieties and concerns.

The only missing link in the French peace initiative is the absence of a genuine U.S. support for it and the minute that happens the world can heave a sigh of relief.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Despite Washington's outright rejection of Iraq's initiative for the world to work out solutions for all problems in the Middle East, we are witnessing a gradual move on the part of the world community to convene an international conference to achieve that goal, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The World Council of Churches and the Chinese delegate to the U.N. General Assembly were the latest callers for such a conference, echoing the views of the Europeans and the Soviet Union, said Al Ra'i. Furthermore, the past few days heard and saw the French prime minister calling the world's attention to the fact that the Palestine problem had not received world-wide attention as did the Gulf crisis, although several Security Council resolutions were issued concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. It said that we now hear voices from the Soviet military and the United States warning against an outbreak of military conflict in the Gulf which would cause untold devastation and losses to mankind. However, the realisation of the magnitude of the catastrophe awaiting the world should war break out, can by no means bring about the required change in positions and attain peace, because the world wishes to see practical steps taken to achieve this aspiration and brave steps on the part of all parties to establish real peace, said the paper.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily questions Jordan's favourable response to the U.N. Security Council resolutions which, he says, are in fact United States decisions. Why should we respond favourably to the whims of the United States which obviously is dictating its terms to the world through the Security Council, asks Tariq Masarweh. He says that Washington has been raising funds from various nations to finance its adventure in the Gulf region, but sure enough not a single penny will find its way to Jordan unless this country bows to the will of the U.S. master and kisses the hands of Bander Ben Sultan, the writer notes. Even the Security Council resolutions are twisted to suit the interests of the Western powers specially when it comes to the repatriation of the Western nationals in Iraq and the sending of food and medicine, the writer adds. Indeed, he says, we should say that we do not respect U.N. resolutions as long as Israel pursues its atrocities in the occupied Arab lands and continues to massacre Palestinians and maintains its occupation of Palestine, Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

Al Dustour described recent statements by leaders in the West and East about the danger awaiting the world from a military conflict in the Gulf as a return to reason. Should a conflict break out, Iran will be aligning itself with Iraq and a third world war could be triggered said the Chief of staff of the Soviet armed forces, and French leaders have been drawing attention to the need of solving all the problems in the Middle East if the region and the world at large are to enjoy peace, said the paper.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Gulf standoff requires economic adjustment

THOSE who wait for surprises and fast developments in the Gulf crisis may have to wait for long time. Two months on, and the U.S. did not use its "option" to "liberate" Kuwait by war, and reinstate the 60-billion-dollar emir to his throne. America is yet to complete its military buildup while waiting for the temperature to drop in the area so that its soldiers will not be grilled like shrimps before facing any of the one million Iraqi troops, including over 350,000 of university degree holders that are waiting for them, in defence of Arab dignity.

In October, America will wait until after the mid-term results of state and congressional elections. After the elec-

tions, they will wait until after the Christmas and New Year eve, to avoid converting this happy occasion into mourning over American bodies flown back in bags and wooden boxes, covered by the stripes and stars.

In January, America will decide that the economic sanctions against Iraq have started to bite, and that those sanctions should be given a chance to bring Iraq down on its knees. In that case, the U.S. hopes, Iraq may deliver Kuwait on a silver plate, in return for allowing food, medicine and air to reach the children, women and the rest of the population of Iraq.

This is to show that the Gulf crisis is not a short term one.

The enormous losses expected to result from a shooting war will prevent the unthinkable from happening. Therefore, Jordan has to start immediately to re-arrange its own affairs on the understanding that the crisis is not a passing phenomenon. It has created new facts on ground that are not reversible in any way, irrespective of the outcome of the crisis or even the war.

On the defence side, we have to prepare the people in the villages, towns and badia for the worst possibilities, such as an Israeli aggression. Nothing will dissuade Israel from venturing into Jordan, better than the knowledge of the nature of resistance its forces will meet from the Jordanian army

and population. We should be able, through facts, to convince Israel that its occupation of southern Lebanon was a picnic in comparison to what we have prepared for it in case of aggression.

On the economic front we have to reconsider and alter the economic adjustment programme, which was put into effect one year and a half ago. The circumstances and expectations have now changed radically that the adjustment programme itself needs to be adjusted in many ways.

The degree of austerity and the reduction of public and private expenditure in accordance with the programme are no more sufficient under the current set of circumstances.

We have to impose on ourselves tougher measures than the IMF imposed in early 1989.

The government leaders in the Club of Paris, and the commercial banks in the Club of London, should be notified that Jordan's commitment to pay interest or principal on their debts has become practically impossible to honour.

What we may earn in foreign exchange should go first to satisfy the basic needs of the people. From now on, settlement of debt should be confined to funds and institutions which continue to extend to Jordan financial facilities in excess of what may fall due in their favour. In other words

Jordan cannot be a net transfer of funds to any creditor until the crisis is over.

Finally, the government should rise to the challenge and take measures to put our economic life in order, whether in pricing or distribution of commodities including fuel, or towards more food sufficiency, or finding either alternative markets for what we produce or producing alternative products for our markets.

The worst course of action the Jordanian government may take is to do nothing, and continue to wait for pleasant surprises to save us for compensations that may prove to be a trick used to soften our position and tempt us to fall in line and join the devil's camp.

War more likely as Iraq driven into corner

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

LONDON — The likelihood of a Gulf war has grown significantly as sanctions and international condemnation push Iraq into a corner with no diplomatic escape, European and Israeli military analysts say.

But there is still a chance for peace because the sanctions are only beginning to bite and U.S.-led forces in Saudi Arabia aren't yet strong enough to launch a military operation against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, the analysts say.

"I think another six to eight weeks is available to prevent a conflict but after that it becomes almost inevitable," said Paul Beaver, publisher of Jane's Defence Weekly.

With the United Nations demanding an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Iraq reiterating almost daily that it will never leave, the analysts see little room for a negotiated solution.

"Saddam Hussein could well now be driven into a corner which makes negotiations difficult and we could see a situation where he is left with very few options, and those all being of a military nature," Beaver said in an interview.

Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the French Institute for International Relations in

Paris, said he would "love to see a diplomatic option" but "it would mean that... Saddam Hussein gives in to Western pressure and it's rather unlikely."

A compromise is still possible, he said, in which Iraq would withdraw in return for agreement to hold an international conference to redefine Kuwait's boundaries, give Iraq access to the sea and redistribute Kuwaiti oil reserves.

"But I do not see it in the cards right now," Moisi said. "Maybe in the very beginning a diplomatic option might have been open. Now it's a bit late."

Joseph Alpher, deputy head of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, said even though chances for a political solution are diminishing, "as long as bullets are not flying there is still a diplomatic option."

"If Saddam assesses that tomorrow the United States is going to launch a military attack on him, he still has the option to offer a compromise or unilateral withdrawal," Alpher said.

"He needs a face-saver," Beaver said. "If he isn't given some sort of option, then conflict is inevitable."

But Beaver said the rest of the world has to be assured that Saddam doesn't have the potential to strike again or continue development of nuclear and chemical weapons.



lear and chemical weapons.

"So a withdrawal from Kuwait which would satisfy the United Nations is not a satisfactory conclusion to the rise of a local superpower," he said.

Col. Andrew Duncan, assistant director for information at the International Institute of Strategic Studies, endorsed the "scatter-gun" search for a peaceful solution being pursued by individuals and groups in the Arab World and the West.

But "both the United Nations and the Arab League have got to be the major players in the solution," he said.

Both sides still think time is on their side, analysts said.

"Saddam believes if he sits there long enough the Americans will go away because of congressional elections (in November) and pressure on the budget, and the Americans believe, sooner or later he'll capitulate," Beaver said.

Alpher said time is on the side of the unprecedented international alliance that is gaining strength at the expense of Iraq's military-strategic position.

But Ian Anthony, a researcher at the Stockholm Peace

Research Institute, said Iraq believes support for the U.N. embargo will eventually crack.

Moisi, interviewed in Boston while lecturing at Harvard University, said he believes Iraq is willing to wait longer than the Americans.

"Iraq's agenda now is to change the situation so radically in Kuwait that it can never be put back to where it was," Anthony said. "The longer time that elapses, the better chance they have of accomplishing that."

Opening the Kuwaiti border recently was an attempt to depopulate the country, Anthony said.

Moisi said he believes American objectives can only be achieved through war.

"So unfortunately, I think war is the most probable outcome although paradoxically, no one really wants it," he said.

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, and other Americans "are obsessed" with the limitations imposed on the U.S. military during the Vietnam war, "and are not likely to engage in war... without using all the means at their disposal," he said.

The U.S.-led forces now "are just about to position to defend Saudi Arabia but a lot more is required before an offensive operation to retake

Kuwait," Beaver said.

U.S. ground forces are not strong enough, Duncan said, and it will be at least a month before enough tanks to face the Iraqis arrive in Saudi Arabia.

"The world alliance... will not even be prepared for a military action until sometime in November," said Alpher.

The ideal option for U.S.-led forces would be to wait for Iraq to make the first move and respond, which would be more popular in the West, and especially in the Arab World, analysts said.

"But I don't think it will be a prerequisite for a U.S. and allied action," Alpher said.

Israel and Arab terrorists remain wild cards, the analysts said.

"The best war for Saddam Hussein to split the allied forces is to get Israel involved in some way, which he has been doing," Beaver said.

Alpher said that if a terrorist organisation carried out an atrocity against Israel or Egypt, "there would be no way of knowing whether Iraq was behind it."

That attack could trigger a war, he said.

"I think the danger is to underestimate Saddam Hussein, to believe he will be a fool," Moisi said. "He has not been a fool far."

United Germany seen challenging U.S. leadership

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

RAHWASHINGTON — The shifting balance in relations between the United States and the newly confident, soon-to-be unified, Germany has already yielded some changes — and more appear to be inevitable.

Germany is asserting itself in world affairs, politically as well as economically. It is challenging the United States, in fact if not intent, as the voice of the Western democracies.

Bush administration officials say unification may sometimes mean testier relations between Bonn and Washington. One area of tension may be the removal of nuclear weapons from German territory.

But they also expect the United States to maintain its leading edge in the NATO alliance and in world politics.

"The United States has become a balancer of interests. Other countries look to us to balance the interests of the group," said one State Department official.

This includes acting as a counterweight — perhaps the only convincing counterweight — to a resurgent German power feared by many Europeans, analysts say.

The changing nature of the relationship can be seen vividly in the current Gulf crisis. The United States, with a commitment of more than 150,000 troops, is the vanguard of the international campaign against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Secretary of State James Baker has asserted that this proves the error of those who argue the United States is declining as a world power.

But faced with a huge U.S. budget deficit that underscores a weakening economy, the Bush administration has been forced to ask its allies, including West Germany, to help foot the bill.

"Much like the Soviet Union, we're more a superpower in

military might than any other sense," said NATO expert Daniel Nelson of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The Bush administration was instrumental in the successful "two plus four" talks produced the treaty by which the four World War II victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — gave up rights and responsibilities over Germany.

"Unification is pushing Soviet troops out of central Europe and it will be just a matter of time before the German population tells the United States, we don't want you either."

But to a great extent, Bonn set the tone and pace of the changes, while the 1990 NATO summit in London and the western economic summit in Houston helped Moscow accept unification of a new Germany allied with NATO, it was the deal struck by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that made the treaty possible, Nelson said.

Kohl's guarantees "were just not about security but also monetary and those really greased the skids towards unification, making rapid movement possible," he said.

While Germany now is preoccupied with unification and its enormous cost, administration officials are convinced Bonn can absorb the expense and quickly adapt to expectations that it will play a greater world diplomatic role.

Before, West Germany could look to the allies to make tough choices but the newly unified country "will have to take responsibility for all kinds of decisions," one official said.

"Germany will be a full partner like Britain and France and that means we lose a certain amount of influence and control," one U.S. official said.

Unification is pushing Soviet troops out of central Europe and "it will be just a matter of time before the German population tells the United States, 'we don't want you either,'" Nelson said.

He also predicted an eventual push for the removal of all American nuclear weapons from Germany.

But U.S. officials are relatively confident Germany will decide it must stay within NATO's nuclear umbrella and hence bear the burden of nuclear arms.

The unification discussions highlighted growing new ties between Moscow and Bonn, cemented by Germany's pledge of billions of dollars to support departing Soviet troops.

U.S. officials do not seem to fear this axis.

"As much as the Soviet want Germany to pay, they also want Americans to invest in their country because they are scared to death of dependency on Germany," one official said.

"There is a danger the Germans will overplay their hand" in believing that in the Soviet Union all things are for sale, he added.

"One thing the Germans don't have and the Soviets respect is military might," he said, adding that Moscow, in the unification talks, made sure German military capability would be strictly limited.

The threat of chemical weapons

By Clare Pedrick

NEW YORK — Iraq now ranks as one of the world's largest producers of chemical weapons, according to Western arms experts. Iraq's deadly chemical arsenal, put at between 2,000 and 4,000 tonnes, remains the strongest card in Iraq's leadership's hand.

Scientists at the International Peace Research Unit (SIPRI) in Sweden, an independent organisation which monitors weapons build-ups world-wide, say the Iraqis certainly have huge stockpiles of mustard gas and probably also have at least two types of lethal nerve gas.

"President Hussein has himself declared that he has dual chemical weapons, which has been interpreted as binary chemical weapons," said Dr. Johan Lundin, director of SIPRI's chemical and biological warfare research unit, in a telephone interview from Stockholm.

"With a binary weapon system, you do not have a chemical agent as such in the munition, but you have two chemicals which together react when they are fired at a target."

According to Dr. Lundin, the two binary weapons produced by Iraq are probably Tabun and Sarin, both deadly nerve gases. Iraq may also have a third type of nerve gas, VX, which lingers on the ground far longer than the other two, said the Swedish scientist.

During the Iran-Iraq war, U.N. investigating teams that visited Iran found traces of Tabun, believed to have been fired by Iraqi warheads, said Dr. Lundin. Sarin and Tabun both work by attacking the nervous system, and effectively paralysing the muscles. The result is severe cramps and convulsions, followed by death, usually from respiratory failure — the nerve agent seizes the muscles of the lungs, making it impossible to breathe.

Mustard gas, used extensively during World War I, but also allegedly by Iraq against the Kurds, produces large and excruciatingly painful blisters which develop into sores. "It can in-

capacitate soldiers to a high degree," said Dr. Lundin. "It can also be lethal if it is breathed into the lungs but you need more than you do nerve gas."

Mustard gas has the advantage that it lingers for longer on the ground, so it is particularly effective for carpet spraying on enemy military areas, thus putting troops out of action or at least slowing down their efficiency levels.

In the past, Iraq has both imported chemical weapons from abroad and produced its own. Western intelligence sources have targeted Libya as Iraq's major supplier. Two years ago, the U.S. revealed that Libya had been producing large quantities of chemical agents at a plant in Rabta, built with the help of a West German firm. In May, West German officials said they believed a second plant was being planned at Sebha, 50 miles south of Tripoli.

SIPRI experts say it is not clear if Iraq continues to import chemical weapons or if it relies on its own. It is now believed to have between two and five production sites. "In view of the fact that the USSR and the USA have agreed to stop producing chemical weapons, they (the Iraqis) are probably one of the largest producers in the world," said Dr. Lundin. "We cannot say whether they would use chemical weapons or not, but they have used them in the past."

U.S. military experts claim American troops in Saudi Arabia would be protected against any chemical attack from Iraq. For that reason, any chemical attack would probably have the effect of hampering U.S. military activities rather than provoking a high number of deaths, they say. It's

against civilians that chemical weapons are most effective, experts note.

Even so, the charcoal-impregnated suits that have been issued to each U.S. soldier taking part in "Operation Desert Shield" are cumbersome and heavy and have to be replaced every 10 to 14 hours. They can increase the body temperature by as much as 10 degrees in the already searing desert heat and can seriously impair vision, movement and communication — World News Link.

'Iraq has chemical decontamination sites'

NEW YORK (R) — Iraq has prepared chemical decontamination sites for men and vehicles in southern Iraq in case poison gas was used in a Gulf conflict, the New York Times quoting U.S. intelligence sources said.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed military official as saying Iraq had about half a dozen such facilities just across the border from Kuwait.

They would be used if the wind changed direction during a chemical weapons attack blowing Iraqi poison gas at Baghdad's own forces, the newspaper said.

A spokesman for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had no comment on the report.

The newspaper quoted unnamed government officials as saying the information proved that chemical weapons were an integral part of Iraqi military preparedness.

"It is part and parcel of Iraqi military operations," an official was quoted as saying.

Iraq has the capacity to deliver such weapons using bombs, spray tanks mounted on aircraft, artillery shells, short-range missiles fired from helicopters and short-range rockets mounted on trucks.

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Muslim leaders support family planning efforts

By Jon Miller

JAKARTA — Organisers of an ambitious family planning programme have taken the unlikely step of enlisting the support of Indonesia's Muslim community in their battle to convince parents to use birth control. The project, run by the Indonesian government, aims to drive home the message that "family welfare and family planning are two sides of the same coin," says Abdullah Syarwani, director of Indonesia's Planned Parenthood Association and himself a devout Muslim.

That message was not welcome in many conservative neighbourhoods in Indonesia, the fifth most populous nation on earth and the one with the largest Muslim community, until the head man at the local mosque decided there was no conflict between family planning and the teachings of Islam. "It used to be that women would have to sneak around, taking pills and shots without telling anybody," recalls Tjetje Sukiatna, a 45-year-old native of Kwatang village, a downtown slum neighbourhood in the sprawling city of Jakarta. Sukiatna's family had four children by the time she learned about family planning, in the mid-1970s. "But today we even talk about family planning during our prayers," she says. "Nearly all the couples in the neighbourhood are practising it."

Sukiatna's Muslim women's group has been instrumental in spreading the word about family planning in Kwatang village. And, she says, the change in the neighbourhood has been striking: better-fed and better-dressed children, less noise, less sense of hopelessness. "The advantages are so obvious," she reports. "Most people don't need encouragement any more. They are spacing their births."

The change in Kwatang village follows a pattern that has been repeated in countless neighbourhoods across this tropical archipelago made up of thousands of islands. By winning over local Muslim leaders, advocates of family planning in Indonesia have turned organised religion — an impediment to family planning efforts in some countries — into a staunch ally.

Today, largely as a result of this alliance, Indonesia's population programme is widely considered to be the most effective in the developing world. About half of all Indonesian married couples use birth control measures. The annual population growth rate has dropped from around 2.5 per cent in the early 1970s to 1.9 per cent this year, and officials expect the rate to continue falling in the 1990s.

Such results contrast sharply with the neighbouring Philippines, where the Roman Catholic Church has resisted family planning efforts and the population continues to grow at an annual rate of more than 2.4 per cent. With 188 million people, about 90 per cent of whom are Muslim, Indonesia was concerned that population pressure would wipe out the hard-won gains of economic development. Although the overall population density is not high, nearly two thirds of all Indonesians live on the island of Java, which makes up less than 7 per cent of the nation's land area.

Efforts to relocate Javanese to less developed outer islands have been going on for decades, but with little success. Partly because of this failure, the Indonesian government launched its family planning programme in the early

1970s, at a time when fears of a population explosion were prompting other countries in the region to set up their own projects.

The Indonesian programme, which enjoys the strong support of President Suharto, was designed and managed not by bureaucrats but by enthusiastic young planners. It soon became clear, however, that its success or failure depended almost entirely on the cooperation of local religious leaders called *ulamas*.

"In Indonesia, if you want to launch any kind of programme, you have to consider what will be the perception of the Muslim leaders," explains Risman Musa, a communications expert with the National Family Planning Coordinating Board. "That's very basic. These are powerful people, and whatever they say their followers will do."

But enlisting the support of those leaders was no easy task. The Muslim establishment is highly decentralised, with little national or regional hierarchy. Influential national religious organisations do exist, but they operate on a consensus basis and their decisions are not binding on local leaders. Unlike in the Middle East, there is no "Imam" or national spiritual leader whose opinions become law at a local level.

In the Roman Catholic Philippines — whose government also set up an ambitious family planning programme in the early 1970s — church leaders have exerted their influence, stalling the programme's implementation and pressing for more emphasis on so-called natural family planning, a method of birth control that requires considerable education and training for users.

The Indonesian programme designers knew they would have to confront the religious issue, but they were not sure what that might entail. Meeting with suspicion and resistance in the beginning, they decided to seek the help of national organisations such as Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), a conservative group of Islamic scholars with wide influence in Java.

"We gave a presentation, telling them what family planning is, what are its purposes, what are its goals," recalls Musa. "And the *ulamas* talked with their friends. They consulted the 'holy books', they consulted the prophecies. In the end, we were lucky: They decided that the 'idea of family planning was OK'."

Abdurrahman Wahid, who has been president of NU since 1984, agrees the 1975 decision was a turning point. "The *ulamas* declared that the idea of family planning itself is right according to Islam, to preserve the quality of life, to improve the standard of living and to improve the service of the state towards the people," he says. "It is clear from the holy Koran that you need to plan. Otherwise it will be impossible to anticipate the needs of the family."

Major concerns included stipulations that there should be no abortion and no irreversible sterilisation. There was also resistance to intra-uterine device (IUDs), which the Islamic leaders considered a violation of a couple's privacy. The *ulamas* have since softened their position on IUDs, and they have not fought sterilisation techniques that can be surgically reversed. Abortion was, and remains illegal.

There is no doubt that the need to accommodate the religious leaders has shaped Indonesia's

family planning programme. Some observers believe the government's refusal to institute sex education in the schools, along with its unwillingness to open its contraceptives distribution programme to adolescents and unmarried couples, reflects a fear of angering to *ulamas*. Risman Musa admits there have been compromises.

But if the *ulamas* have been influential, they have also been essential. From the outset government workers learned it was futile to go into communities and preach that family planning is consistent with Islamic law. So, before setting up a clinic or an office, they would ask the local *ulama* to meet with his followers and assure them of his support. Where an *ulama* was reluctant, the family planning staff would call in sympathetic *ulamas* from other areas to apply pressure.

This strategy worked, especially in Java, where communications are relatively good and communities are well organised. But by the 1980s, some areas, such as the conservative Muslim city of Aceh on the western island of Sumatra, were lagging. "Aceh is like Lebanon, like Jerusalem," Musa says. "It's very tough. For almost 10 years we tried our programme there, but it was falling behind the other provinces. So we tried a different strategy. We invited all the eminent *ulamas* in Aceh to Java. We gave them air tickets, accommodation, everything. And we let them talk with the Javanese *ulamas* about the work they were doing with family planning."

"Then we brought them to East Java, which is also strongly Muslim but where family planning is very successful. They had



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL: With the battle against overpopulation for a better lifestyle help of religious leaders, Indonesia is winning the for all.

about two weeks to discuss and observe, to talk to people. And at the end of the trip, they came to the decision, without any interference by us, that family planning was something they had to support. Since then," he says, "the improvement in family planning in Aceh has been tremendous."

The Aceh experience led government policymakers to choose that city for a national seminar, held earlier this year, on increasing the *ulama* role in family planning. That seminar dovetailed with an international conference on Islam and population

policy, also held in Aceh and attended by representatives from 39 countries. Both the seminar and the conference concluded by issuing strong statements supporting vigorous family planning efforts in Indonesia and other developing countries.

Musa, who holds a degree in comparative religion and another in communication, says many Indonesian Muslims now believe that family planning is not merely compatible with religious law but actually advances the goals of Islam. "Mohammad said you have to marry and have children, but he also said that God can't

change your life without your effort. We are the ones to decide whether we have one or two or three or five children. If we want to improve the quality of our lives, it's dependent on us. It's not a gift of God," he says.

"So now the *ulamas* talk everywhere about family planning. They say it is not against our religion, because our religion is for the welfare, the happiness and the prosperity of our people. And they see, of course, that this is also the goal of family planning. The *ulamas* are practically running the programme by themselves" — World News Link.

The UFO welcome mat is in Wisconsin

By Peter Maller
Reuter

ELMWOOD, Wisconsin — This small town in western Wisconsin doesn't have many parking places, and there is no motel. But the welcome mat is always out for visitors from space.

Elmwood, with a population of 1,009, has turned waiting for alien visits into an all-year business. "It all began 15 years ago when George Wheeler, described by friends as a no-nonsense policeman, reported that he had been attacked by a blue light from a large ball of flame that hovered over his squad car at the village quarry."

Eight years ago, 76-year-old Hobbs Wilson said he had seen a UFO 10 kilometres from town. "It was six to seven metres long, made no noise and it lit up the barnyard," he tells visitors. "Where did it get the power to

light up like that? I don't know." More recently, a businessman Tom Weber got international attention when he tried to raise \$50 million to build a landing strip for aliens.

He envisioned it beaming welcoming lights towards space to entice wandering craft down for a friendly landing and perhaps a cup of coffee.

That project flopped for lack of money. While other small towns across America have their pumpkin festivals, fishing derbies and other local occasions, Elmwood makes its mark with annual "UFO days."

The most recent attracted 2,000 tourists, some dressed like Hollywood-issue aliens. They watched parades, danced in the street, rode carnival rides, ate UFO burgers (topped with melted cheese and sauerkraut) and saw the crowning of a UFO queen.

The six finalists in that last event were asked by the judges to explain why UFOs are attracted to Elmwood.

"It might be because they want to study a rural culture, and this is a very rural culture," said 17-year-old Kathryn Raasch.

Children chased through the streets gathering 500 paper plates dropped from an airplane. The imitation flying saucers were deemed for prizes ranging from five to 75 cents.

"Every town around here seems to have its strawberry festival or its cucumber festival or its potato festival, so we decided to have a UFO festival because we've had a lot of sightings," said Caroline Schodder, an organiser of the event.

The continuing sale of inflatable space ships, T-shirts, caps, mugs, ashtrays, badges, bumper stickers and other products has become something of a cottage industry.

"We usually try to donate about \$3,000 a year to the community," said Sharon Weber, who did a brisk business at a concession stand run by the Elmwood Area Community Club, a charitable organisation.

Profits from the sale of UFO paraphernalia have paid for an air conditioning system in a community auditorium and for Christmas decorations in the downtown district, she said.

However, for the true UFO aficionado wanting to meet alien beings, Elmwood may be a disappointment.

Rusty Paar, 23, drove in from La Crosse, Wisconsin, clutching a photocopy of a document that he said outlined a government cover-up of UFO landings. But he found few people who took the matter as seriously.

"This whole event just looks like a bunch of people looking for an excuse to party," he said.

New Yorker hits its stride as magazine industry stumbles

By Samuel Fromartz
Reuter

NEW YORK — The New Yorker magazine, which has captivated its public for three generations, is winning new readers as the U.S. magazine industry enters its worst recession in years.

Other magazines that reach far wider audiences than the New Yorker have watched advertising pages slip away as companies cut back on spending.

But the 65-year-old weekly — which features long, in-depth pieces of journalism and short fiction and poetry interspersed with quirky cartoons — has actually seen more readers flock to its pages, with advertisers gingerly following along.

"The industry is not particularly healthy this year, and the New Yorker was up 7.5 per cent in ad pages in the first quarter and about five per cent for the first half. It's very gratifying, but it's also, 'oh boy, we're out there alone,'" said Steven Florio, chief executive of the New Yorker.

When the magazine was bought five years ago by S.I. Newhouse Jr's Advance Publications, the largest privately-owned U.S. magazine publisher, longtime readers feared the New Yorker would be forever changed.

Newhouse owns slick publications such as Vogue, Gentleman's Quarterly and Vanity Fair and sceptics thought he would justify his \$168 million investment in the New Yorker by changing it to boost advertising revenues.

Within a month of purchasing the company, Newhouse brought in Florio to run the company — and coming from a men's fashion magazine was not exactly a prime credential in the New Yorker set.

"Everyone was asking, 'what's he going to do? what's he going to do?' The rumour mill was just extraordinary," Florio said.

He began by reworking the business side of the magazine, accepting credit card payments for subscriptions and instituting a direct mail campaign.

He also sold off various companies the New Yorker owned and let go about 40 business staff members, some of whom had spent virtually their entire careers at the company.

While more aggressive selling techniques, like big advertising packages, made some purists bristle, the new owners were careful not to tinker too much with the editorial content of the magazine, as that was its heart.

The New Yorker differs from many publications by its loyal readership — it has one of the highest subscription renewal rates in the industry — and its

notable place in the New York publishing community. It wasn't until 1987, however, that Newhouse firmly stamped his mark on the magazine by bringing in Robert Gottlieb, editor of book publisher Alfred A. Knopf, to replace William Shawn, a venerable figure in journalism who edited the New Yorker for 35 years.

Despite his credentials, Gottlieb's surprise appointment alienated many on the editorial staff, who viewed him as an outsider and thought Shawn was treated poorly.

"We were reading about ourselves in the press everyday — that I was going to get rid of Gottlieb and then Newhouse was going to get rid of me," Florio recalled. "But I kept saying to Boh, 'let's just keep doing what we've been doing. Newhouse believes in both of us.'"

Finally, advertisers began to return to the magazine in 1989 and circulation started to increase. The magazine now reaches more than 630,000 readers — the highest in its history.

It managed the comeback without altering what it has always done best: catering to people who enjoy long, unadorned articles in an age when television and the quick-read dominate media.

"The most striking aspect of the magazine has been its attempt to establish some standard of conscience for journalism. We were doing that 50 years ago and we continue to do so today," said Brendan Gill, a staff writer at the magazine for more than half a century.

Among other changes, the "Goings on About Town" section in the front of the magazine, offering listings of a wide variety of New York entertainment events, added graphics and short profiles.

Younger writers and cartoonists were hired, complementing the staff who have long worked at the magazine.

Last year, the New Yorker won its first national magazine award in 11 years in the categories of fiction and reporting. It won two more awards this year.

But while the comeback has been a vindication of sorts for those who own and run the New Yorker, things are much the same for the staff.

Asked how the staff viewed the resurgence in readers, Gill said: "Honestly, almost mysteriously, it hasn't crossed the minds of editorial. I don't think anybody in 50 years has ever talked to me about circulation. We show a genuine lack of interest because it's always been a magazine where we wrote for each other."

Jordan explains position

(Continued from page 1)

one side or the subject of the relief of sanctions," he added.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher could not say on Friday whether any aid had actually been distributed. And he refused to answer when asked if Washington was prepared to let Jordan sink into greater economic turmoil if it did ally unambiguously with the U.S.-led anti-Iraqi campaign.

But he stressed: "The assistance is for the effects of the application of sanctions."

Prince Hassan voiced sorrow, bitterness and sarcasm during the press conference.

Despite assertions that Jordan has been a conduit for continued trade with Iraq in the face of U.N. sanctions, he said Jordan government has implemented the embargo against Baghdad with "complete loyalty."

This policy has been carried out even though it has meant a 50 per cent decline in Jordan's gross national product, he said.

"Is it expected that Jordan commit economic hardship?" He asked. "Are we expected to commit economic suicide?"

number of other capitals since the crisis erupted with the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In response to criticism from the State Department and others about Jordan's decision to host a pan-Arab conference weeks ago, Prince Hassan said that Secretary of State James Baker was conferring with Syrian officials in Damascus at the very time the meeting in Amman was taking place.

Syria is on the U.S. State Department list of countries which sponsor "international terrorism."

Later Friday, the Crown Prince met with Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in an unusual joint meeting.

Baker told reporters as the meeting began: "I think everyone here is acutely aware of the difficult position that Jordan finds itself in."

"I know I'm aware to the interest on the part of many countries to try and help assuage the concerns that Jordan has from the standpoint of the impact on its economy."

Baker said Jordan occupied a strategically vital position in the region while Shevardnadze said the meeting was being held because the situation had become "very tense."

The Crown Prince also held separate talks with U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and exchanged views with them on the Gulf crisis. He also explained to them Jordan's position vis-a-vis the crisis and the economic problems facing Jordan.

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Underdogs bite back at Asian Games

China's medal drive slows

PEKING (AP) — Japan's Munehiro Kaneko seized the title of Asia's top all-around athlete Saturday, and Gulf states runners and South Korean shooters also helped slice into China's gold medal monopoly at the Asian Games.

For the first time in the week-old games, China won less than half of the day's golds.

Past quadruple gold medalist P.T. Usha of India missed out on her second chance for a gold here as China ran away from the Indians in the women's 1,600-metre relay, breaking India's games record.

But overall, China picked up just 10 of the day's 24 golds — four in shooting, two in judo, and one each in track and field, cycling, men's sabre team fencing and the Chinese martial art of Wushu, making its debut in these games.

That boosted its gold total to 111, to 24 for Japan, 23 for South Korea and nine for North Korea. The Chinese had 197 medals in all, followed by Japan's 117, South Korea's 86 and North Korea's 51.

Japan and South Korea each won five golds Saturday. Japan had two in track and field, two in cycling and one in judo. South Korea won three in shooting and one each in judo and weightlifting.

Kaneko broke the 8-year-old games record of 7,417 points with a 7,799 total in the decathlon, a two-day contest in running, jumping, pole vaulting and hurling the shot put, discus and javelin.

Taiwan's Guu Jin-Shoei was second with 7,623 and China's Gong Goo-hua third with 7,453. China's Weng Kang-qiang held the old record, Lee Fu-An of Taiwan, the Asian champion, ended fifth at 7,036 after missing at an ambitious initial height in the pole vault and receiving no points for that event.

Asian champion Mohammad Ali Malli of Oman won the men's 400 metres in 45.81 seconds, short of the games record of 45.00, and his own Asian record of 44.56. Qatar's Ibrahim Muftah was second in 46.09, and Japan's Koichi Konakatomi third in 46.85.

Mohammad Sulaiman, gave Qatar its second gold of the

games, winning the men's 1,500 metres in 3 minutes, 43.56 seconds. South Korea's Kim Boog-Yoo was second in 3:45.04 and Japan's Mitsuhiro Okuyama third in 3:45.53.

In the relay, Usha never had a chance. China's Li Guilian gave her team a comfortable first-lap lead, and India had to struggle for the silver medal. China finished in 3:33.57, breaking India's 1986 games record of 3:34.58. India's time was 3:38.45, with Malaysia a close third in 3:38.52.

Japan's Megumi Sato won the women's high jump with a leap of 1.94 metres, breaking the games record of 1.89 set by China's Zheng Dazhen in 1982. South Korea's Kim Hee-Sun and China's Cao Zhongping both cleared 1.90, with the same number of misses, and shared the silver medal.

In cycling, Hideki Miwa led a 1-2-3 Japanese sweep in the men's sprint event. Then Japan won the four-kilometre team pursuit, beating China 4:34.47 to 4:41.15 in the final.

China took all three medals in the women's sprint, with Zhou Shumin winning the gold.

In shooting, South Korea won three golds and North Korea one.

South Korea's Park Byung-Taek won the men's centre-fire pistol title with a 598, one of the world record, and Lee Eui-Chul edged Japan's Ryohi Koha 1,253.7 to 1,253.4 for the men's small-bore 3x40 rifle shooting gold. South Korea won the rifle event team title 3,459 to 3,440 over China.

North Korea beat South Korea 438 to 430 for the men's skeet team title, and China won the women's event, 434 to 430 over North Korea.

China won the women's air pistol individual and team golds and the centre-fire pistol team title, 1,747 to 1,743 over South Korea. The centre-fire victory made Xu Haifeng, China's Asian Games torch bearer, a quadruple gold medalist.

Japanese judoka Hirotaka Okada beat South Korea's Kim Seung-Kyu for the men's middleweight gold, and South Korea's Kim Byung-Joo threw China's Li Jinsan in 3 minutes, 22-seconds for the half-middleweight title.

Chinese beat Japanese for two women's judo golds, with Zhang Di defeating Ryoko Fujimoto in the middleweight division and Jin Xianglan downing Takako Kobayashi in the half-middleweight.

Unlike judo, athletes competing in Wushu have no opponent, but receive points — much as in gymnastics — for their form. Chinese took the top two places in the women's Nanchuan division, but Japan's Noriko Katsube won the bronze with 9.35 points of a possible 10. Winner Chen Lihong had 9.80.

South Korea's Yeom Dong-Chul won the 82.5-kilogram weightlifting gold, and North Korea's Chon Chol Ho won at 75 kilograms.

India blanketed defending champion South Korea 2-0 Saturday and stayed undefeated, along with Pakistan, in Asian Games field hockey competition.

Gundeep Kumar and Dhanraj Pillay scored for India against South Korea, the 1986 games winner.

Meanwhile, Pakistan, which beat the Koreans here earlier, downed China 5-0 on two goals by Muhammad Irfan and one each by Tahir Zaman, Anjum Saeed and Shahbaz Ahmad.

Pakistan leads the standings with four victories, while India has three. South Korea stands third with a 2-2 record.

India and Pakistan are to meet next Friday in the final game of the men's hockey round robin.

Chinese swimmers outclass rivals

China's women swimmers, stars of the Peking Asian Games, have become a force in world swimming hot the men will have to wait a little longer, coaches said.

"The Chinese women are already world class, but their men still have a way to go," said a U.S. coach watching final events of the swimming competition.

We will have to watch for them at the next Olympics.

China's women won every one of the 15 golds they contested, including eight in new Asian record times. Four women pocketed four golds each.

Their male counterparts were harder pressed, snatching eight golds to Japan's seven and South Korea's one.

"I am especially happy that the women's swimmers have reached world standards in many events," said Chinese swimming coach Chen Yungeng.

The women provided most of the excitement for the boisterous home-town crowd which packed the Yingdong Swimming Arena night after night.

A pair of petite Chinese raced the second and third best times ever in the 100 metres butterfly and another swimmer recorded the year's second best time in the 200 metres butterfly.

The capacity crowd was on its feet to watch Yang Wenyi, the world's fastest woman in the water, try to break her own world record in the 50 metres freestyle.

But despite winning easily, she failed to set a new mark, explaining later that her legs were tired.

The Chinese team's stunning progress — in 1978 it failed to win a single Asian Games swimming medal — is due partly to East German help and a huge reservoir of talent, coaches said.

"They are the fastest improving swimming team around," the U.S. coach said.

The ocean-Olympian size of the women — at an average height of 1.72 metres, they are just two centimetres shy of the average for Olympic finalists — also allows them to compete at a higher level.

The men are relatively smaller than Olympians, Chen said.

"Our women swimmers are also very strong because they have good psychological conditioning," he added.

Cloistered to high-altitude training before the games, the team also gained an edge by practising in the pool where the races were held.

Chinese women concentrate on strength training, evident in the muscular build of many of them.

"These are the main reason for the women's good performance. Frankly speaking, Chinese women swimmers have much harder training than men swimmers," Chen said.

The next step is to enhance the men's training.

Senna clinches 50th pole position in Spanish GP

JEREZ, Spain (AP) — Ayrton Senna of Brazil gained the 50th pole position of his Formula One career as he held on to the top spot Saturday in the qualifications for the Spanish Grand Prix.

Senna's 50 poles have come in just 108 races, by far the best in Formula One history. The late Jim Clark had 33 for second in the all-time list.

"I would like to thank everybody that has participated in this achievement from the very first day from the Portuguese weekend in 1985," the 30-year-old Senna said. "That is when I achieved and that one was real special."

Senna's McLaren-Honda clocked 1 minute, 18.887 seconds Saturday to average 193.716 kilometres per hour (120.369 miles per hour).

On Friday he raced to a 1:18.900 clocking on the 4.218-kilometre (2.621-mile) Jerez Circuit.

"I had an inside feeling that someone could beat that time," Senna said. "If I wanted to, I could have gone faster (than Friday)."

Defending world champion Alain Prost of France was second Saturday with 1:18.824. Ferrari teammate Nigel Mansell of Britain was third in 1:19.106.

Jean Alesi of France, in a Tyrrell-Ford, was fourth in 1:19.604.

Senna holds a 78-60 lead in the drivers' standings over Prost and can win the title if he takes Sunday's race.

Senna also won the season title in 1988 but lost last year after a bitter rivalry with Prost.

If Senna doesn't win Sunday, Prost needs at least a second place to stay alive in the standings. A third or worse eliminates the Frenchman mathematically with two races left.

Prost, a three-time world driving champion, criticised the Spanish Jerez circuit after fellow driver Martin Donnelly, of Northern Ireland, was injured in the Friday qualifying of the Spanish Grand Prix.

"On this track you are almost always in a position to hit a barrier head-on or at a dangerous angle," Prost said.

Donnelly struck the retaining

wall at almost 260 kilometres an hour less than 10 metres from the curb — almost head-on according to witnesses — and hurled back on the track.

The qualifying was stopped while Donnelly was removed and taken to the hospital unit on the track.

A medical bulletin said Saturday his condition was stable following surgery. He had broken both legs, several ribs, a cheekbone and his collarbone, and was having some minor respiratory problems from a bruised right lung.

Senna said he found it difficult to go as fast as he did following Donnelly's accident.

"I went to the place and saw the immediate consequences of the accident with my own eyes," Senna said. "It was difficult to understand, absorb it and go forward from that."

"We have seen an extremely difficult day for us drivers because of the accident of Donnelly," Senna said. "It's not easy to cope with someone getting hurt that much in such an unexpected way."

Donnelly's Lotus-Lamborghini hit a curb and then smashed into a retaining wall. The car split in half, throwing the Brit out of his cockpit and leaving him motionless strapped into his seat in the middle of the track.

Qualifying was halted for 40 minutes while rescue personnel carried Donnelly by stretcher from the track.

"I tried to put it from my mind during the last part of the training," Senna said. "But it was there. It was such a major accident."

"I just try to drive the way as always. I just did my best as I always try to despite the circumstances."

Members of the Lotus team praised the sport's governing body's safety guidelines Saturday.

"We would like to thank FISA's (International Federation of Auto Sports) doctor, Professor Syd Watkins and all the marshalls and medical staff both at the track and the hospital for their wonderful assistance so far," Lotus team manager Rupert Manwaring said.

Ben Johnson can compete for Canada again after ban

TORONTO (AP) — Sprinter Ben Johnson, who lost an Olympic gold medal and world record after his steroid use was discovered, can compete for Canada again.

Johnson was reinstated by the Executive Committee of the Canadian Olympic Association (COA) Friday. His two-year suspension for steroid use expired Tuesday.

Johnson, who had his Olympic gold medal and world record for the 100 metres stripped during the Seoul games after he tested positive for steroids, was reinstated by a 9-3 vote and is now

eligible to compete on national teams representing Canada, including those in the 1992 Olympics.

"It's our feeling that the public disgrace Ben has suffered the past two years is unprecedented," COA President Carol Anne Lethbridge said. "We believe he's suffered enough."

In the summer, the federal government upheld its lifetime ban suspending Johnson from government funding — about \$600 a month — but left it to the COA to decide whether the sprinter could represent the country at international events.

Gilbert struggles into Queensland Open final

BRISBANE (R) — Top seed Brad Gilbert had to labour long and hard Saturday to set up a final against his compatriot and practice partner Aaron Krickstein in the Queensland Open Tennis Championships.

Gilbert, 29, needed more than two and a half hours to dispose of fourth-seeded West German Carl-Uwe Steeb 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals of the \$320,000 tournament.

The 29-year-old Gilbert said he was worried that the long match

had tired him out for Sunday's final against Krickstein, the second seed, who had a much easier time with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Australian John Fitzgerald.

"By the time I get back to the hotel and have something to eat, I probably won't get to sleep until two o'clock," Gilbert said.

"But then again even if you have 24 hours between matches, you can go out and play. It's hard to predict. Tennis is a funny game."

FIFA plans wider goals

ZURICH (R) — Bigger footballers and low-scoring World Cup games have prompted soccer chiefs to consider shifting the goalposts.

"Scientific studies show that the human body has grown 14 centimetres this century," Guido Tognoni, spokesman for the International Football Federation (FIFA) told Reuters Saturday.

"But the size of the goal first fixed in 1866 is still the same at

7.32 metres wide and 2.44 metres high."

A Swiss magazine reported that FIFA President Joao Havelange had hacked moves to widen the goal by 30 centimetres and raise the crossbar 10 centimetres.

Tognoni said the proposals were aimed at making the game more attractive. Fans were disappointed by the dearth of goals at the World Cup in Italy earlier this year.

Werder deals Bayern Munich their first defeat of season

BONN (R) — A spectacular goal by Werder Bremen defender Uli Borowka dealt champions Bayern Munich their first defeat of the season as Kaiserslautern stretched their lead at the top of the West German soccer first division.

Borowka fired a 25-metre shot firmly into the top right corner in the 52nd minute to earn Werder a 1-0 home win.

Kaiserslautern took advantage of the defeat to take a two-point lead with a 2-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen.

The two top-of-the-table games played ahead of Saturday's other fixtures were the most important of the weekend.

Goals from Thomas Dooley and Demir Hotic in the 24th and 47th minutes made sure Kaiserslautern will visit Italy for the European Cup Winners' Cup first-round second leg with Sampdoria next week as clear league leaders after eight games.

The West Germans lead the holders 1-0 after the first leg.

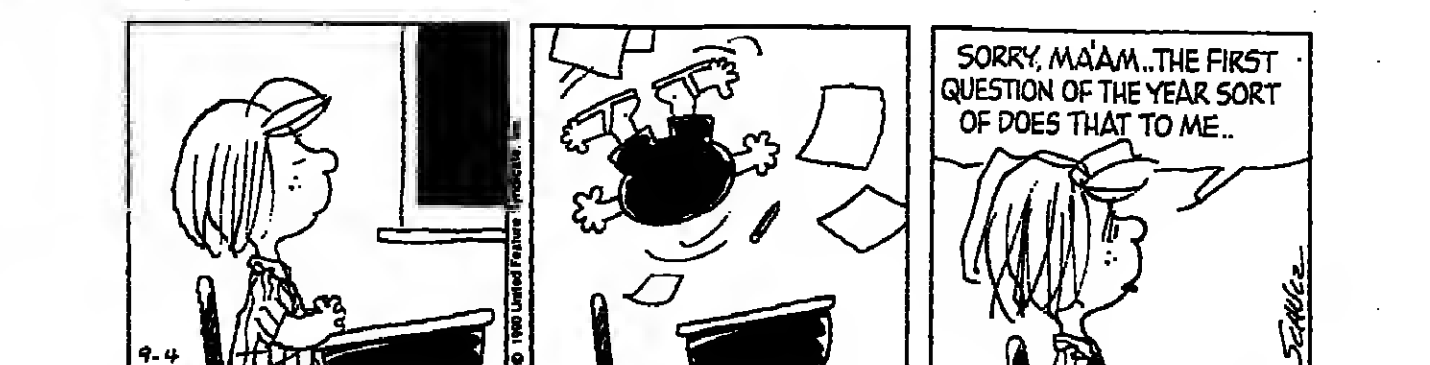
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You need to be in contact with a multi in a powerful position if you are going to make a success of your ingenious plan. Why wait? Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to reach out to new business in the morning and avoid older persons with different views from your own but at night enjoy your family.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't get involved in any discussions over assets or liabilities and give business persons the benefit of the doubt early while later visiting a close companion.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Avoid individuals in the outside world who limit you or who do drastic things and instead spend the day attending to material aspects of your life.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Knock off from usual work routines today for they would not be doing to anyone's satisfaction and instead concentrate on personal wishes.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't put yourself in a position today where you have to spend much on the good things in life but go along with a romantic time with your attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Tread lightly in your relations with those who dwell beneath your

own roof today but in the evening be with good friends at the projects you all like.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) It is advisable that in any jaunts or communications you use the utmost caution not to get in accidents or upset those you send message to.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are apt to make some big mistakes by tackling either an old or new material problems during the day but tonight be of too new activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are tied down to some unfinished personal task during the day so stick to it until it is completed, then get into oncoming business deals.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) A private worry can keep you from doing most anything of a constructive nature so put it aside and later you get a pleasant night with an associate.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 19) All types of friends could prove disappointing to you today so put off seeing them and concentrate upon working out a new schedule for your activities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The worldly interests you want to engage in would not come out as you wish so instead consider the good times you most enjoy indulge in them.

THE BETTER HALF

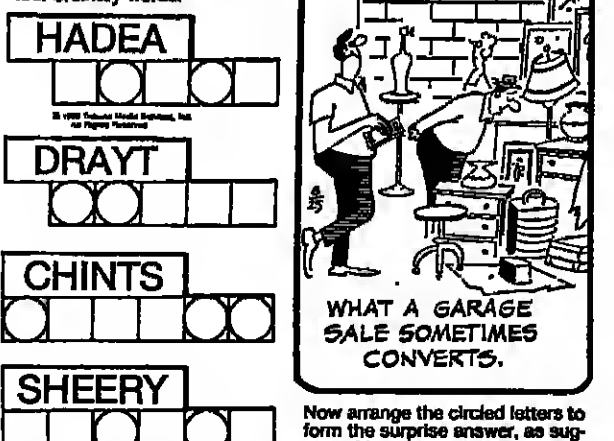
By Harris



"It's amazing what you can do with some rubber cement and a shedding Pomeranian!"

JUMBLE

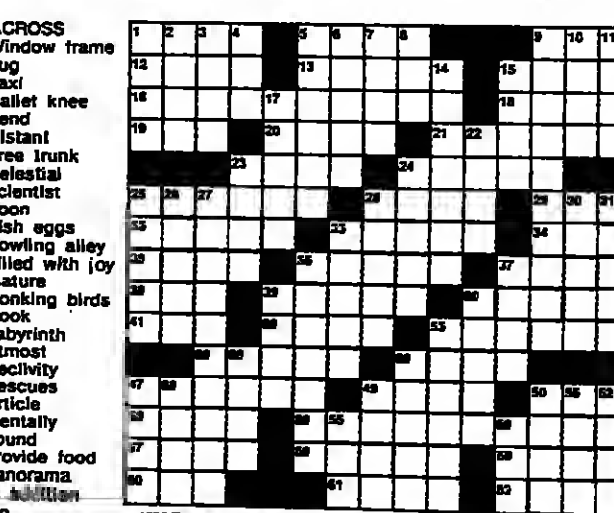
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four common words.



Answer here: INTO

Yesterday's Jumble: BOOTH ADMIT WAYLAY FALLEN
Answer: Her upkeep was his --- DOWNFALL

The Daily Commuter Puzzle



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across	2 Across	3 Across	4 Across	5 Across	6 Across	7 Across	8 Across	9 Across	10 Across	11 Across
SCARE	MAIN	STAY	CAROL	ASTA	TRE	ARISE	ISTS	FIAT	BELEANT	TEAPOT
1 Down	2 Down	3 Down	4 Down	5 Down	6 Down	7 Down	8 Down	9 Down	10 Down	11 Down
MADE	HELL	REGATE	MORRIS	AMORE	COVER	BLUE	TORY	EDDIE	PLATE	LEBORNO
12 Across	13 Across	14 Across	15 Across	16 Across	17 Across	18 Across	19 Across	20 Across	21 Across	22 Across
ASS	FOOD	STORAGE	BI	MEADOW	SOUNDS	17 Oil-rich fruit	18 Sediment	19 Lasso	20 Officiating	21 mallet
23 Across	24 Across	25 Across	26 Across	27 Across	28 Across	29 Across	30 Across	31 Across	32 Across	33 Across
34 Across	35 Across	36 Across	37 Across	38 Across	39 Across	40 Across	41 Across	42 Across	43 Across	44 Across
45 Across	46 Across	47 Across	48 Across	49 Across	50 Across	51 Across	52 Across	53 Across	54 Across	55 Across
56 Across	57 Across	58 Across	59 Across	60 Across	61 Across	62 Across	63 Across	64 Across	65 Across	66 Across
67 Across	68 Across	69 Across	70 Across	71 Across	72 Across	73 Across	74 Across	75 Across	76 Across	77 Across
78 Across	79 Across	80 Across	81 Across	82 Across	83 Across	84 Across	85 Across	86 Across	87 Across	88 Across
89 Across	90 Across	91 Across	92 Across	93 Across	94 Across	95 Across	96 Across	97 Across	98 Across	99 Across
100 Across	101 Across	102 Across	103 Across	104 Across	105 Across	106 Across	107 Across	108 Across	109 Across	110 Across
111 Across	112 Across	113 Across	114 Across	115 Across	116 Across	117 Across	118 Across	119 Across	120 Across	121 Across
122 Across	123 Across	124 Across	125 Across	126 Across	127 Across	128 Across	129 Across	130 Across	131 Across	132 Across
133 Across	134 Across	135 Across	136 Across	137 Across	138 Across	139 Across	140 Across	141 Across	142 Across	143 Across
144 Across	145 Across	146 Across	147 Across	148 Across	149 Across	150 Across	151 Across	152 Across	153 Across	154 Across
155 Across	156 Across	157 Across	158 Across	159 Across	160 Across	161 Across	162 Across	163 Across	164 Across	165 Across
166 Across	167 Across	168 Across	169 Across	170 Across	171 Across	172 Across	173 Across	174 Across	175 Across	176 Across
177 Across	178 Across	179 Across	180 Across	181 Across	182 Across	183 Across	184 Across	185 Across	186 Across	187 Across
188 Across	189 Across	190 Across	191 Across	192 Across	193 Across	194 Across	195 Across	196 Across	197 Across	198 Across
199 Across	200 Across	201 Across	202 Across	203 Across	204 Across	205 Across	206 Across	207 Across	208 Across	209 Across
210 Across	211 Across	212 Across	213 Across	214 Across	215					

Technologie française et crise du Golfe

Spot: un satellite très courtisé

Satellite civil, destiné principalement à la cartographie, Spot intéresse beaucoup les militaires depuis le début de la crise du Golfe. Les images précises qu'il peut fournir de n'importe quel point du globe permettent de distinguer les mouvements troupes et les dispositifs militaires. Depuis le début de la crise, il est donc très sollicité par toutes les parties prenantes, mais sa société d'exploitation applique à la lettre l'embargo commercial contre l'Irak.

Autour de la planète, tourne un drôle de photographe. Rien n'échappe à sa vue perçante et il travaille vingt-quatre heures sur vingt-quatre. C'est le satellite français de télédétection SPOT 1 qui, depuis son orbite, à quelque 830 km de nous, fournit en continu, depuis 1986, des images de la Terre.

Des images de très grande qualité, dites «haute résolution». Choisissez sur un carte un parking, un cou de tennis, le bâtiment d'une ferme ou l'écoulement d'une rivière: SPOT vous en donnera une vue aérienne aussi nette que s'ils avaient été pris à vingt mètres du sol pour une photo couleur, à dix mètres pour du noir et blanc.

Le principe? Les deux caméras haute résolution du satellite balayent, à chacun de ses passages, une bande de terre de 117 km de large. An bout de 26 jours, l'œil de SPOT a photographié la planète sous toutes ses coutures et il recommence en repassant sur ses traces. De plus, un savant jeu de miroirs élargit son champ de vision à plusieurs centaines de

kilomètres. Ce qui permet des prises de vue obliques et, par conséquent, la reconstitution d'images en relief.

Quant à l'acuité de sa vision, SPOT la doit à la qualité de son équipement optique. Six mille photodiodes transforment la lumière reçue en signaux électriques. Ces derniers sont convertis en données informatiques transmises aux stations de réception situées dans différents pays. Elles y sont stockées sur bandes magnétiques pour être finalement transformées en images.

Ce sont donc des outils précieux pour les cartographes, les géologues, les urbanistes, les agronomes. Pour les responsables politiques aussi, dans des domaines comme la sécurité civile, la défense nationale, l'aménagement du territoire ou l'agriculture. A tout moment, ils peuvent disposer d'un état réel de la surface du globe et de son évolution: désertification, dérive des glaciers, couverture végétale, déformation des sols ou déplacement de sites militaires.

Depuis un mois, les commandes affluent du monde entier pour ce dernier type de clichés. C'est un atout non négligeable pour tous, en effet, que de disposer ainsi régulièrement d'une photographie des dispositifs militaires en Irak, au Koweït ou en Arabie Saoudite pour pouvoir en tirer les conséquences sur le terrain. Théoriquement, rien n'empêche SPOT de satisfaire toutes les demandes, mais l'enjeu est grave et l'Irak fait, comme on le sait, l'objet d'un embargo commercial strict, qui s'applique aux photos de SPOT comme à toute marchandise. Pour cette raison, la demande irakienne n'a pas été satisfaite et les images de SPOT sont classées top secret, mais le satellite français ne cesse pour autant de mitrailler la zone de conflit afin de satisfaire ses clients réguliers - dont l'Arabie Saoudite fait partie - ou pour constituer ses propres archives, qui auront une valeur certaine à l'avenir, lorsqu'on écrira l'histoire de la crise du Golfe. Spot n'est ni un satellite espion ni un satellite militaire, mais en l'absence de «collègues» aussi performants dans ces domaines, il peut tout à fait jouer les remplaçants, sans abandonner pour autant ses fonctions traditionnelles.

Un exemple de ces activités traditionnelles, qui montre l'utilité pacifique de ce satellite: la sécheresse sévit dans quelques régions françaises depuis le printemps 1989. Certains agriculteurs, littéralement sinistrés, doivent bénéficier d'une aide financière de l'Etat. Mais lesquels? SPOT joue le rôle de juge de paix. Ses images permettent, en effet, d'identifier précisément les secteurs touchés et de répartir équitablement les indemnités.

Costaud (sa longévité a doublé par rapport aux prévisions), discret, efficace, SPOT-1 a déjà transmis plus de 1,5 millions de clichés de notre globe. Dans cet étonnant catalogue «informatisé bien sûr» les vues idylliques d'îles Caraïbes côtoient celles, terribles, de la centrale nucléaire détruite de Tchernobyl.



Koweït-City, photographiée par SPOT-1 en juillet 1987.

Pour la société «SPOT-images» qui commercialise les produits de ce satellite conçu par le Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), c'est un succès. Son chiffre d'affaires a considérablement augmenté, passant de 20 millions de francs en 1986 à 130 millions de francs en 1989. Ses clients, publics et privés, se trouvent en Europe (39%), en Amérique du nord (21%), dans la région Asie-Pacifique (24%). Et, malgré la récente concurrence des satellites soviétiques, les responsables de cette société affichent une sérénité totale: la demande est à la hausse et «tout commercial de taille» ils peuvent fournir un service personnalisé sur commande («l'interprétation des images», par exemple).

Enfin, comme SPOT se fait vieux, même s'il demeure alerte, on lui a adjoint, à titre de relais, SPOT-2, lancé en janvier dernier par la fusée



Ariane, le petit du programme d'observation SPOT.

formante et prolifique famille SPOT.

Claire Thierry et Jean-Marc Bordes

LA SEMAINE...

de Suleiman Sweiss

Les mass-médias et la crise

Depuis la publication par le professeur californien H. Schiller de son livre monumental «The mind managers» - il y a quinze ans - sur le rôle des médias dans la société américaine, il n'y a plus grand chose à découvrir, sinon peut-être le développement incroyable des moyens techniques utilisés dans le domaine de l'information. Dans cette étude, que j'ai lue il y a quelques années, l'auteur analyse pertinemment la façon dont les moyens d'information manipulent l'opinion publique aux Etats-Unis. Non seulement ils déforment la vérité, mais ils créent des systèmes de valeurs que la majorité du peuple américain suit aveuglément. Par ailleurs, Schiller démasque les «mythes» sur lesquels s'appuient les mass-médias, tels que la «neutralité» et l'«objectivité».

J'ai redécouvert l'importance de ce livre cette semaine, en relisant un grand nombre d'articles et de coupures de journaux américains relatifs à ce qu'on appelle la crise du Golfe. De plus, une conférence s'est tenue à Amman sur le rôle des mass-médias occidentaux dans cette crise.

On dirait une «guerre psychologique» ou une guerre sur le front de l'information, dirigée contre les Arabes et non moins dangereuse que la concentration des troupes occidentales en Arabie. On colle tout ce qui est méchant, hideux, insensé sur le dos des Arabes. Ce qui est plus terrible encore, c'est l'insinuation; on prépare le citoyen à faire sien l'image que les moyens d'information veulent donner d'une figure, en l'occurrence celle de Saddam Hussein. On cherche à le dénigrer, à l'insulter carrément, à déformer tout sur lui, à redécouvrir «sa vérité...» pour aboutir à la comparaison entre lui et Hitler. On cherche en vain une certaine ressemblance entre les moustaches des deux hommes!

L'afflux des nouvelles, des commentaires et des reportages ne s'arrête pas. Il ne concerne pas seulement l'Irak, mais touche aussi la Jordanie. A en croire certains journalistes, notre pays est envahi par le choléra, les magasins sont vides et les réfugiés venant de Koweït l'ont transformé en un lieu de crime et d'instabilité. Résultat: les touristes boudent notre pays. Or tout le monde sait ici que le calme et la stabilité n'ont nullement été perturbés en Jordanie depuis le 2 août. Il y a, certes, des difficultés économiques, mais la vie suit son cours normal.

En revanche, les crimes commis par les Israéliens à Gaza la semaine dernière n'attirent pas le moins du monde la presse dite «internationale» - de son vrai nom «occidentale».

Ces mêmes mass-médias ne mettaient-ils pas l'opinion publique en garde, il y a quelques années, contre les pays communistes menaçant d'envahir le monde?

Curieusement, l'offensive actuelle des mass-médias occidentaux contre les Arabes n'a que peu d'influence sur ces derniers. Dans l'ensemble, ceux-ci considèrent que la déformation dont ils font l'objet résulte de ce qu'ils ont enfin déifié l'Occident et qu'ils défendent leurs propres intérêts.

Incontestablement, les prétendues «objectivité» et «neutralité» de la plus grande partie des mass-média «internationaux» se sont révélées sous leur vrai jour. Les médias sont fidèles avant tout à leurs patrons: les grandes sociétés multinationales.

Il s'agit pour nous, actuellement, de se débarrasser de la domination des médias occidentaux sur les peuples arabes. Les pays du Tiers-Monde devraient, à terme, créer leurs propres réseaux de médias indépendants, s'ils veulent protéger leurs intérêts nationaux.



Libres propos

Procès du Moyen-Orient

(De notre envoyé spécial chargé des affaires judiciaires.)

L'immense salle du tribunal ouaisien était pleine à craquer. Dehors, dans la salle des pas perdus, les plaingants, les accusés et les avocats attendaient leur tour, au milieu du brouhaha d'une foule énorme de journalistes et de curieux. A l'ordre du jour, deux affaires devaient être examinées, toutes deux concernant des lopins de terre contestés par les uns ou les autres: l'affaire Palestine-Israël et l'affaire Irak-Koweït.

Le juge Javier, chargé de présider les audiences du tribunal ouaisien, n'était pas un juge comme les autres. Lorsqu'il siégeait, il était tenu par cinq fils invisibles qui sortaient du visage, et dont chacun était manipulé par l'un des cinq Grands.

Le Grand des Grands était un immense gaillard surnommé l'oncle Sam. Il possédait un terrain vaste et riche, dont les mauvaises langues prétendaient qu'il avait pris de force à des Sioux, des Apaches, des Mohicans et d'autres, après les avoir complètement dépecés. L'oncle Sam avait beaucoup d'enfants, adoptifs pour la plupart d'ailleurs. Bon nombre de ses enfants s'adonnaient aux stupéfiantes et à d'autres vices.

Sam tenait le fil attaché au nez du juge Javier. C'était donc le seul parmi les Grands qui pouvait mener le juge par le bout du nez.

Le deuxième Grand, surnommé l'Ours, était un gaillard fort au visage rouge, probablement à cause d'un léger abus de vodka. L'Ours avait également un immense terrain et de nombreux enfants. Mais à cause de sa gestion déplorable, il était devenu nécessaire, au point qu'il en était arrivé à devoir

vendre quelques uns de ses enfants pour continuer à subsister. Il les vendait à prix d'or à Israël qui les adoptait aussitôt pour augmenter la force de frappe de sa famille.

L'Ours, lui, tenait le fil attaché à la langue du juge Javier. Avant de devenir pauvre, combien de fois n'avait-il pas empêché le juge de prononcer ses condamnations! Mais les temps avaient bien changé! Maintenant, contre de bons repas de dollars (dont l'Ours était très friand) offerts par Sam, il lui arrivait souvent, lors des séances de la cour ouaisienne, de passer le bout de fil qu'il tenait à son nouvel ami Sam.

Cette nouvelle situation commençait à menacer sérieusement le record de condamnations décerné par Israël. Ayant la langue presque défilée, le juge Javier commençait en effet depuis peu à prononcer des condamnations à la pelle à l'encontre de tous ceux qui avaient eu le malheur de mécontenter l'oncle Sam.

Le troisième Grand, on plût la troisième Grande, était une vieille dame jadis belle, riche et puissante, nommée Albion. Elle était devenue, il y a de cela bien longtemps, la petite amie attirée de l'oncle Sam et montrait un zèle excessif à exécuter tous ses desirs, souvent même avant qu'il ne les fasse connaître. L'ennui était qu'Albion n'arrivait pas à admettre qu'en vieillissant elle avait perdu beaucoup de son charme, de sa fortune et, par suite, beaucoup de son influence. Même l'oncle Sam commençait à s'en éloigner et à fuir à droite à gauche, avec beaucoup d'autres.

Albion tenait le fil attaché à l'oreille droite du juge Javier. La quatrième Grande, Marianne, était une dame douce et distinguée, qui avait su très bien élever la plupart

de ses enfants. Malheureusement, elle ne pouvait pas toujours résister à l'envie de faire de bons repas de dollars, ce qui la poussait parfois à flirter avec Sam ou avec d'autres (des Bédouins prétend-on) et à commettre des actes honteux, qu'elle finissait par regretter amèrement.

Marianne, elle, tenait le fil attaché à l'oreille gauche du juge Javier.

Enfin, la cinquième Grande, Chine, était une dame bien pauvre mais extrêmement courageuse. Elle avait une multitude d'enfants qu'elle essayait tant bien que mal de nourrir et d'élever.

Chine, elle, tenait le fil attaché à la perruque du juge Javier; elle ne pouvait donc pas lui faire de mal, mais pouvait à tout moment le ridiculiser.

Avant la séance, l'oncle Sam avait invité l'Ours et Chine à un festin de dollars, qu'il s'était procurés dans des terres lointaines appartenant à des Bédouins. L'Ours, se sentant un peu mal, probablement à cause d'une légère indigestion, préféra laisser le bout de ficelle qu'il tenait à son ami Sam et sortit du palais de justice. Il s'installa dans le bistro d'en face, devant une bouteille de vodka (tradition oblige) et un hamburger (capitalisme oblige). Il se mit à penser aux moyens de vaincre nombre de ses enfants qui ne faisaient pas confiance à l'oncle Sam, que les temps avaient changé et que, d'ici quelque temps au moins, il aurait besoin des dollars que pouvait lui procurer son nouvel ami pour nourrir toute sa famille et être en mesure d'assurer à tous ses enfants des hamburgers, des hot-dogs, du Coca-Cola et des jeans.

Chine, quant à elle, resta dans la salle du tribunal. Son-

nolante, se léchant les babines en souvenir du repas qu'elle venait d'ingurgiter. Elle rêvait de pouvoir, elle aussi, procurer à toute sa famille des hamburgers, du Coca-Cola et des jeans. Elle finit par s'endormir, laissant tomber nonchalamment par terre le bout de ficelle qu'elle tenait dans sa main.

A onze heures pile, annoncé par son huissier, le juge Javier fit son entrée dans la salle. Tout le monde se leva, sauf l'oncle Sam, qui, vautre dans son fauteuil (les Grands avaient naturellement le droit à des fauteuils), avait les pieds sur le dossier de la chaise qu'occupait une femme, assise juste devant lui. Cette dame, présente en tant que sœur de Palestine et d'Irak, s'appelait Arabie. Les pieds de Sam la gênaient et l'obligeaient à garder la tête penchée en avant, mais elle n'osait pas demander au grand gaillard de les retirer.

«Assis», cria le juge d'une voix autoritaire en s'installant sur son siège. Tout le monde se rassit, à part bien entendu l'oncle Sam qui se contenta d'allonger un peu plus ses longues jambes par dessus le dossier du siège d'Arabie, rendant la position de cette pauvre dame encore plus inconfortable et plus humiliante.

Après avoir consulté le greffier, l'huissier sortit dans la salle des pas perdus répétant d'une voix assourdissante: «Affaire Irak-Koweït».

(A moins qu'un nombre suffisant de lecteurs ne l'exige, nous estimons inutile de donner la suite du compte-rendu de notre envoyé spécial, car vous avez sans doute tous suivi, à la télévision, à la radio ou dans les journaux le déroulement des procès du Moyen-Orient.)

Sabri Farah

EN BREF

Liberté. Un opposant jordanien, proche du Front Populaire de Libération de la Palestine (FPLP de Georges Habache), a été remis en liberté à la fin de la semaine dernière après 13 ans de détention. Beik al-Hadi, 53 ans, condamné en 1977 à la peine capitale pour atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat, a été gracié en raison de son état de santé et à la suite de l'orientation démocratique adoptée par son parti.

Rappel. La Jordanie a décidé de rappeler son ambassadeur à Ryad, Nasser Batayneh, pour riposter à la décision de l'Arabie Saoudite d'expulser certains de ses diplomates en poste dans la capitale saoudienne. La Jordanie avait été notifiée, mardi, par l'Arabie saoudite de la demande saoudienne de fermeture du bureau de l'attaché militaire à Ryad et de la réduction du nombre de ses diplomates accrédités auprès de ce pays de 25 à 6, y compris l'ambassadeur et le consul général. L'ambassade jordanienne continue à fonctionner.

Burej. La direction unifiée de l'Intifada a décrété les jours prochains «journées d'escalade» dans les territoires occupés, jusqu'à la levée du blocus imposé au camp de réfugiés palestiniens de Burej dans la bande de Gaza, et réaffirmé que les groupes de choc palestiniens allaient poursuivre les soldats israéliens «où qu'ils se trouvent». Le couvre-feu est imposé au camp de Burej depuis le dimanche, il y a une semaine, d'un soldat israélien qui avait pénétré dans le camp. L'armée israélienne a démolé quelques jours plus tard une trentaine de maisons et de magasins dans le secteur où a eu lieu l'accident, et procédé à une vaste vague d'interpellations.

Ben Bella. L'ancien président Ahmed Ben Bella a foulé jeudi le sol algérien pour la première fois depuis dix ans, au terme d'un exil forcé en Europe. Il a aussitôt réclamé la constitution d'un «gouvernement national de transition» pour préparer les élections législatives anticipées, prévues pour fin mars 1991. Ben Bella a aussi appelé les Algériens à «se porter volontaires, par centaines de milliers» pour défendre «notre peuple d'Irak et notre frère Saddam Hussein».

670. Le conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a décrété mardi un embargo aérien contre l'Irak par quatorze voix pour et une voix contre (Cuba). La résolution 670 décide également l'immobilisation de tout navire irakien relâchant dans un port étranger s'il est soupçonné d'avoir violé l'embargo économique et militaire, mis en place le 6 août. S'agissant de l'embargo aérien, la résolution précise que «tous les Etats refuseront la permission de décoller de leur territoire à tout aéronef qui transporterait, à destination ou en provenance de l'Irak ou du Koweït, toute cargaison», à l'exception des denrées alimentaires qui pourraient être acheminées pour des raisons humanitaires. La résolution demande également aux Etats de refuser le droit d'atterrissage et de survol à tout avion irakien se rendant en Irak ou au Koweït. Bien que la chose ne soit pas explicitement précisée, il semble que l'embargo ne porte pas sur les avions transportant des passagers.

Menaces. L'Irak a menacé de pendre des Américains non diplomates réfugiés à l'ambassade des Etats-Unis à Bagdad, au lendemain de l'adoption par le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU de la résolution étendant au trafic aérien l'embargo contre Bagdad. L'Irak a par ailleurs annoncé qu'il copiera les vivres à tous les étrangers bloqués en Irak et au Koweït à partir du 1er octobre, affirmant ne plus pouvoir subvenir à leurs besoins alimentaires pour cause d'embargo.

Réserves. Le président George Bush a décidé jeudi de puiser 5 millions de barils dans les réserves stratégiques de pétrole des Etats-Unis et de les mettre en vente, pour tester les capacités du pays à la faire en cas de pénurie. Stockée dans d'anciennes mines de sel de Louisiane et du Texas, la réserve stratégique a été progressivement constituée en réponse à la décision des Etats arabes membres de l'OPEP, en 1973, d'interrompre les livraisons aux pays soutenant Israël. Les stocks stratégiques des Etats-Unis sont actuellement de 590 millions de barils et représentent environ 100 jours d'importations.

Rushdie. L'écrivain Salman Rushdie évoque l'«enfer» de sa vie de prosaïte et se déclare à nouveau «désolé» d'avoir offensé des Musulmans avec son livre «Les versets sataniques», dans sa première interview télévisée depuis la fatwa de l'ayatollah Khomeiny le condamnant à mort, il y a 18 mois. L'annonce de cette interview, qui doit être diffusée aujourd'hui par la chaîne anglaise privée ITV, a coïncidé avec le rétablissement jeudi des relations diplomatiques entre la Grande-Bretagne et l'Iran.

Disparition. Le romancier Alberto Moravia est décédé mercredi matin à Rome, à l'âge de 83 ans. Considéré comme l'un des plus grands écrivains italiens du XXème siècle, Alberto Moravia était devenu célèbre dès son premier roman, «Les indifférents», publié en 1927, et dominait, depuis, la scène littéraire italienne. Sa dernière œuvre doit paraître bientôt: une biographie sous forme d'interview, réalisée par l'écrivain Alain Elkann, chez Bompiani.

Philippines. Seize officiers et soldats, dont un général, ont été condamnés vendredi à la prison à vie pour le meurtre en 1983 de Benigno Aquino, chef charismatique de l'opposition philippine à la dictature Marcos. Le verdict a été prononcé par un tribunal d'exception après sept ans de procédures au cours desquelles la veuve du défunt, Corazon Aquino, est devenue présidente des Philippines.

Attentat. Un attentat à la grenade contre deux cafés-restaurants dans le centre de Djibouti a fait un mort, le jeune enfant d'un militaire français, et 17 blessés, dont 15 militaires français, un Djiboutien et un Allemand de l'ouest. Les agresseurs ont lancé deux grenades contre les consommateurs installés à la terrasse du «Café de Paris» et ont réussi à prendre la fuite. L'un des blessés (à la jambe) qui tentait de poursuivre les agresseurs a essuyé des coups de feu tirés par un pistolet automatique. L'attentat n'a pas été revendiqué.

Plan. Le président François Mitterrand a proposé pour la première fois lundi, devant l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies, un plan en quatre points pour une solution de la crise du Golfe. La première étape serait que Bagdad «affirme son intention» de retirer ses troupes du Koweït et «libère la vingtaine de milliers d'étrangers qu'il retient en otages». La seconde étape serait alors le rétablissement, sous l'égide de l'ONU, du Koweït dans sa souveraineté, avec la possibilité pour la population d'exprimer démocratiquement ses choix. La troisième phase consisterait à amorcer une solution de tous les problèmes qui se posent au Moyen-Orient. Enfin, si les trois étapes du plan étaient franchies, on pourrait alors, selon M. Mitterrand, en «imaginer» une quatrième, qui s'attacherait à la réduction mutuelle et consentie des armements et à l'amorce d'une coopération qui s'étendrait de l'Iran au Maroc.

Sondage. Deux Français sur trois approuvent l'action du président François Mitterrand dans le Golfe, selon un sondage réalisé par l'institut BVA pour l'hébdomadaire Paris-Match publié mercredi. Une approbation massive à gauche (83%) mais également très forte à droite (64%) et chez les électeurs ne se situant ni à gauche ni à droite (60%). Ce large consensus a en pour effet de doper la cote de popularité du président français, qui a progressé de 6 points par rapport à juillet, atteignant 55% d'opinions favorables.

IMA. L'Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), créé en 1980 pour favoriser la connaissance de la culture et de la civilisation arabes par le public français et dont le siège a été inauguré fin 1987 à Paris, traverse actuellement une grave crise financière qui a conduit sa direction à annoncer mercredi le licenciement du quart de son personnel. Née de l'accumulation des dettes de la plupart des pays arabes fondateurs, qui devaient assumer ensemble 40% du budget de fonctionnement de l'IMA (la France se chargeant du reste), la crise s'est encore aggravée à la suite des événements du Golfe qui ont empêché le Koweït, l'un des rares pays à payer régulièrement sa contribution (6 millions de francs par an), de s'en acquitter cette année.

A la télévision jordanienne

La nouvelle grille des programmes en français

Plus de films, plus de magazines scientifiques, culturels et éducatifs, des horaires plus réguliers: ce sont les lignes directrices de la nouvelle grille des programmes en français, inaugurée cette semaine sur la deuxième chaîne. Au chapitre des disparitions, on notera celle des «Chiffres et les lettres». Mais les valeurs sûres restent au programme: dessins animés, «Ca c'est du cinéma» et la fameuse «Ecole des fans» de Jacques Martin.

Avec le mois d'octobre, la deuxième chaîne de la télévision jordanienne inaugure sa nouvelle grille de programmes. Une grille caractérisée avant tout par une plus grande régularité des rendez-vous. Finis les débuts de programmes flottants: désormais les amateurs de programmes en français ont rendez-vous tous les jours de la semaine à 18h précises, sauf les vendredis et les dimanches, qui sont les jours des films et où l'antenne est ouverte non moins régulièrement à 17h30 précises. Le vendredi, c'est le jour du

lendemain, en grand écrivain, et reçoit le prix Goncourt. Le mépris de ses collègues se transforme alors en admiration. Tous veulent devenir ses amis, mais Barabî (c'est son nom) n'a pas oublié le passé et refusera ces amitiés nouvelles pour préserver les vraies amitiés d'antan. Film léger et sans prétention, ce long métrage offre à Henri Guybert, spécialiste des grosses farces, un de ses rôles les plus sensibles et les plus nuancés.

Le dimanche est, lui, le jour du téléfilm policier. On y retrouvera en alternance les meilleures séries françaises du genre. «Maigret», bien sûr, joué par Jean Richard et inspiré des nombreux romans de Georges Simenon mettant en scène ce commissaire à la pipe et au chapeau mou, aussi nonchalant que perspicace et psychologue. C'est à lui que revient l'honneur d'inaugurer la nouvelle grille de dimanche, avec un épisode intitulé: «La pipe de Maigret». On retrouvera aussi, les autres dimanches à 17h30, la série «Les cinq dernières minutes» dans sa version moderne. Cette série reprend le titre d'une émission née aux débuts de la télévision en France, où un candidat devait, après avoir visionné une intrigue et l'enquête du commissaire joué par Raymond Souplais, découvrir la solution de l'énigme. La version moderne a supprimé l'aspect ludique de la série, proposant des enquêtes menées de bout en bout, sans intervention du téléspectateur. D'autres séries viendront compléter la palette policière du dimanche.

Au chapitre des innovations de la nouvelle grille, il faut mentionner aussi un nouveau jeu, à la fois sportif et intellectuel, qui sera diffusé le samedi en début de programme, intitulé «Les clés de Fort Boyard». Cette émission reprend les principes d'émissions de la télévision, du type «La chasse au trésor» ou, plus ancien, «La tête et les jambes». Un candidat lâché

dans un pays inconnu doit résoudre une énigme en répondant à certaines questions sur cette région et en visitant certains sites. Un moyen agréable d'étendre sa culture générale.

En alternance avec cette nouvelle émission, la télévision jordanienne présentera le magazine «Fruits de la passion». L'idée maîtresse de ce magazine consiste à dresser le portrait d'un sportif célèbre et à retracer le parcours qui l'a conduit à cette apogée.

Consciente de sa mission éducative, la direction des programmes en français prévoit un certain nombre de séries documentaires scientifiques. Le mardi sera le jour des enfants, avec «Scientikids». Ce magazine est animé par des enfants qui découvrent des concepts scientifiques de base tels que le magnétisme ou la lumière, à travers des expériences simples. Les adultes pourront étudier les symptômes et les traitements de certaines maladies chroniques, telles que le cancer ou les maladies nerveuses, grâce au magazine du mercredi, «destination santé».

Pour tous, une nouvelle émission sur la vie des animaux, intitulée «Splendeur sauvage», sera diffusée chaque jeudi.

Ces nouveautés mises à part, les valeurs sûres du programme en français demeurent. «L'école des fans» qui fait un tabac en Jordanie depuis des mois grâce au talent de Jacques Martin et à la candeur charmante de ses jeunes invités sera diffusée tous les mardis, aux alentours de 18h15, après «Scientikids».

Grâce à cette nouvelle grille, la direction des programmes en français espère accroître son audience, dont un récent sondage a montré qu'elle atteignait déjà un score très honorable: près de 11% de téléspectateurs réguliers et 7% de téléspectateurs occasionnels.

A vos postes donc, et bon divertissement!

JMB



Jacques Martin et son «Ecole des fans», séries au rendez-vous.



PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

Sagesse des Bédouins

Ave Egeria,

Dans le temps, il y avait beaucoup de caravanes qui transportaient des marchandises entre l'Arabie Saoudite et la Jordanie. On les rencontrait souvent dans le désert: de longues théories de dromadaires accompagnés par une dizaine d'hommes. En général, elles étaient silencieuses. Quand on fait de longues traversées dans un territoire où l'eau est rare, on ne gaspille rien, même pas son souffle pour parler ou pour blâmer: les bêtes aussi savent cela, par instinct. Un des hommes, élu par les siens, est généralement responsable du groupe, grâce à sa sagacité et à sa profonde connaissance du territoire. A son tour, l'homme choisit un dromadaire sur lequel il compte pour donner le bon exemple aux autres et, à l'occasion, les discipliner. Hommes et dromadaires d'une caravane doivent se soumettre à une discipline très stricte pour la réussite du voyage.

Le docteur Rivara, qui venait juste d'arriver d'Italie pour diriger l'hôpital italien de Karak et qui avait un fils, Fabio, enfant au visage triangulaire avec d'énormes yeux bruns presque douloureux dans leur intensité, est réveillé une nuit pour soigner un Bédouin qui avait une main en très mauvais état. Elle était en miettes. Il opère, fait le pansement et se recouche. Le jour suivant, il trouve que le pansement a été changé et les blessures recouvertes par une bouillie vert foncé. Il s'inquiète, refait le pansement, et, le soir, retrouve la plaie recouverte par la même bouillie vert foncé. Et ceci pendant trois jours. Finalement, son inquiétude s'apaise, car il voit la main faire des progrès très rapides sans la moindre infection et permet alors au Bédouin de continuer à se soigner tout seul. Ce remède consistait en une bouillie d'herbes ayant macéré sous un tas de pierres à une certaine époque de l'année. Elle soignait parfaitement toute sorte de blessure, la faisant cicatriser sans former de chéloïde. Le docteur Rivara a fait étudier cette bouillie par le laboratoire chimique du jardin des plantes de Turin: 27 des 34 plantes qu'elle contenait étaient connues en Europe comme anti-cancéreuses.

Les deux hommes deviennent amis et c'est ainsi que le docteur Rivara apprend l'histoire de l'autre.

L'homme en question était un chef caravanier qui avait traversé le désert quelques centaines de fois. Le dernier voyage n'avait pas été tranquille. Un jeune chameau qu'il venait d'acheter avait commencé à montrer, quelques jours après le départ, des signes toujours plus inquiétants de folie. Ni les caravaniers, ni le chameau de tête n'avaient pu avoir raison de son comportement. Toutes les bêtes étaient chargées jusqu'à la limite de leurs capacités; abattre ce dromadaire aurait signifié perdre le prix de l'animal et du chargement. D'un commun accord les hommes décident d'atteindre Karak tant bien que mal. La caravane arrive finalement à son avant-dernière étape, entre Moti et Mazar. Le jeune dromadaire attend que tous les hommes soient endormis et s'approche du chef caravanier, lui saisit la main entre les dents et l'entraîne vers le ravin pour l'y jeter. L'homme réussit à extraire son poignard et à l'enfoncer dans le cou de la bête. Le dromadaire se rend compte qu'il va mourir et, tout en tenant l'homme en suspend dans le vide, s'apprête à enjamber le rebord de rochers pour se jeter dans le ravin avec sa victime. Il finit la force réunie de tous les hommes pour faire reculer la bête mourante, dont les mâchoires s'étaient soudées sur la main de l'homme.

Fabio, que j'ai revu dernièrement, me dit que cette histoire hante encore ses nuits. C'est d'ailleurs le même Bédouin qui lui a fait cadeau d'un... jouet quelque peu extravagant, pour ne pas dire inquiétant aux yeux de ses parents: une boîte contenant des bêtes aspiques. Ceci pour le mythridatiser. Abou Mishari, même après leur séparation, trouvait toujours le moyen de remplacer les aspiques de Fabio quand ils grandissaient trop. Il lui avait aussi appris comment se comporter au cas où il serait piqué par un aspic adulte.

«Tu es tout petit, et tu ne sera jamais laissé seul longtemps. Il faudra que tu te souviennes de trois commandements de Dieu:

1) Si l'aspic te mord, c'est qu'il se défend d'une attaque que tu lui as portée. Il faut donc que tu meures; la meilleure façon de simuler la mort est de ne pas bouger du tout. Tu te figes dans l'immobilité la plus absolue.

2) Tu ne dois pas tuer l'aspic avant de mourir, parce que tu ne respecterais pas la volonté de Dieu par cette vengeance. Et surtout, ne suce pas ton sang.

3) Dieu t'a donné la parole, appelle donc au secours.» Que d'années et d'argent nous faut-il aujourd'hui pour redécouvrir ce que les Bédouins connaissent depuis toujours!...

Vale, Egeria!

A L'AFFICHE

Reportage et débat

L'Allemagne, c'est quoi?

A l'occasion de la réunification allemande, l'Institut Goethe propose le mardi 2 octobre à 18h une projection vidéo composée d'un reportage sur l'Allemagne de part et d'autre de l'ancien mur, et d'un débat sur l'identité allemande aujourd'hui.

Les changements en Allemagne de l'est ont placé les thèmes de «l'Allemagne» et des «Allemands» au cœur d'une discussion ouverte et tous azimuts. Que signifie aujourd'hui se sentir Allemand? Sur quelles valeurs communes repose le concept d'«Allemand»? Ces deux documents vidéo qui se répondent tentent de répondre à ces questions par le biais d'une approche historico-culturelle du problème.

Dans ce but, le réalisateur Hannes Heer entreprend un voyage à travers une «patrie compliquée». Le regard de la caméra se porte sur les paysages allemands. Du foyer original de Brandebourg, en Prusse, naît l'esprit allemand et se développent ses caractéristiques: sens du travail, sens de l'économie, sens de l'ordre. L'île de Rügen, avec ses carrières de craie, constitue l'un des paysages allemands qui, au XIXe siècle inspirèrent les peintures de Caspar David Friedrich et firent de l'Allemagne un foyer de culture.

Autre site: la vieille Weimar qui fut une source d'inspiration pour Goethe et Schiller.

L'Olympe de la culture allemande et le sommet de la barbarie allemande sont tout proches, comme les deux flancs d'une même montagne: on ne peut pas ne pas évoquer le camp de concentration misérable de Buchenwald, tout proche de Weimar en énumérant ces lieux de souvenir.

Les Kyffhäuser, les caves de Barbarossa, les peintures monumentales de Werner Tübke sur la révolte des paysans, la forêt de Thuring, Potsdam, Berlin sont les étapes progressives de ce voyage qui ne se contente pas de montrer les foyers culturels mais montre aussi les centres économiques: Francfort qui, comme Leipzig, fut un haut lieu du commerce, ou bien encore le cœur industriel de l'Allemagne qu'est la Ruhr.

Le point de départ de ce voyage, c'est le Harz, dont la plus haute montagne était encore, il n'y a pas si longtemps en plein no-man's land, et qui fut non seulement le site de la légende nationale allemande de Faust, mais aussi le lieu de naissance de l'Empire au Moyen-Age: c'est à Vogelherd qu'Henri de Saxe fut consacré premier empereur d'Allemagne.

Des images des événements et des rencontres actuelles viennent compléter le film qui offre une lecture à plusieurs niveaux des «valeurs sœurs» de l'Allemagne et des lignes directrices qui émanent de sa tradition.

Pour conclure ce documentaire, une table ronde est proposée sur la pensée, le sentiment et l'interdépendance allemands. La question «qu'est-ce qu'être Allemand?» sert de point de départ à cette discussion. L'adjectif «allemand» est le concept rassembleur. Il n'y a pas en Allemagne de peuple fondateur comme les Francs en France ou les Anglais en Angleterre, mais un conglomérat de peuplades voisines séparées les unes des autres. L'adjectif «Allemand» évoque donc à la fois une somme et la tentative d'en faire un ensemble, une unité et d'en définir les contours géographiques et culturels.

Un des participants à ce débat est un Français, représentant de la compagnie Volkswagen à Paris. Son point de vue est, curieusement, le plus pan-européen de tous.

DIVERS

Pollution. Deuxième symposium sur la pollution de l'environnement sous le patronage de la reine Noor et en coopération avec l'Université de Jordanie et la Fondation Friedrich Hebert. Principaux thèmes: l'impact de l'industrialisation sur la qualité de l'eau; la surexploitation des nappes phréatiques; la pollution agricole; et la gestion économique et administrative de la qualité de l'eau. Université de Jordanie, le dimanche 30 septembre 1990, de 9h à 13h30 et de 15h30 à 18h.

Sauver le tourisme

La crise du Golfe a porté un coup dur à la saison touristique dans le pays. Dès la mi-septembre et jusqu'à la mi-mai, des centaines de milliers de touristes viennent habituellement chez nous, attirés par Pétra, Jerash, Aqaba et d'autres lieux touristiques et historiques. Or, cette année, la saison s'annonce très mal. Au lieu de voir des groupes affluer par centaines, comme ce fut le cas dans les années précédentes, on en voit à peine quelques dizaines.

De nombreuses réservations dans les hôtels ont été annulées. Les espoirs d'augmenter les recettes du tourisme en 1990 ont été déçus. C'est ce qui ressort des propos de MM. Niaz Cha'ban, directeur du tourisme à Pétra, et Nasri Attalah, secrétaire général du ministère du Tourisme. Ce dernier a estimé les pertes à 240 millions de dollars et M. Cha'ban estime les pertes du tourisme à Pétra à 3 millions de dollars. L'année dernière, 12 millions de dollars étaient rentrés à ce titre. Il ajoute que les projets de construction de nouveaux hôtels ont été stoppés. Les chambres des hôtels existants ne sont occupées qu'à 15% des capacités. Ajoutons à cela le chômage et les pertes pour une bonne partie de la population de la région, dont le tourisme est l'unique ressource.

Il est vrai que le tourisme jordanien est très sensible à la conjoncture politique dans la région. Mais la crise actuelle n'est pas la seule raison du recul de ce secteur. La pression exercée sur la Jordanie par certains pays et la campagne anti-jordanienne dans certains médias européens et américains y est aussi pour beaucoup. Des déformations, des mensonges sont diffusés afin de faire peur aux touristes étrangers. Du genre: il y a une crise d'approvisionnement en Jordanie; on y traite mal les Européens; les Américains «risquent leur vie»; On bien encore: les réfugiés venant du Koweït ont répandu le vandalisme dans le pays. Les maladies telles que le choléra sont en train de ravager la Jordanie.

Toute personne qui vit en Jordanie ou qui y séjournerait récemment sait très bien qu'il n'y a rien de tout cela.

Des efforts doivent être faits par les autorités et par les citoyens jordanien pour dissiper les effets de ces mensonges. Chaque citoyen jordanien et chaque ami de la Jordanie peut écrire une petite lettre à ses amis à l'étranger pour rétablir la vraie image de la situation dans le pays. Le ministère du Tourisme doit prendre des initiatives énergiques. Car il est encore temps de sauver la récolte du printemps prochain... et de dire aux amateurs de la Jordanie: soyez les bienvenus!

Salehman Swais.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

«Jeremiah Johnson». Robert Redford joue dans ce film de Sidney Pollack le personnage légendaire de Jeremiah Johnson, vétéran de la guerre civile américaine, qui a quitté la vie civilisée pour la vie sauvage des montagnes. Tourné dans les forêts de l'Utah, il évoque l'Ouest américain avant l'arrivée des colons. Centre américain, le dimanche 30 septembre, à 19h. Version originale.

«Little women». Ce film de David Selznick, tourné en 1949, est basé sur un roman de Louisa May Alcott, paru en 1869. L'auteur y raconte sa propre enfance. Son père, philosophe utopiste ami de Ralph Waldo Emerson et de Henry David Thoreau, était un homme dévoué de sens pratique et de revenu modeste, mais doté d'une vision optimiste de la vie. Il incomba à sa fille, Louisa May Alcott, de subvenir aux besoins de sa mère et de ses quatre sœurs, au moment où la guerre civile américaine faisait rage. L'adaptation cinématographique a réussi à recréer les joies et les peines de cette famille qui font l'intérêt du roman.

Centre américain, le dimanche 30 septembre, à 19h. Version originale.

«Angel». Film de Neil Jordan, produit par John Boorman. Un saxophoniste fait la connaissance d'une jeune femme venue assister à un concert de son groupe dans une boîte de nuit en Irlande. Soudain, une fusillade éclate qui tue le manager du groupe ainsi que la jeune fille qui se dirigeait vers la scène. Plutôt que d'aider les deux détectives chargés de retrouver les coupables, le saxophoniste fait le choix de retrouver lui-même et de les éliminer les uns après les autres. Centre britannique, le mercredi 3 septembre, à 18h.

Ciné-club. Séance quotidienne à 20h00. Projection supplémentaire pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 16h00.

«Angel». Film de Neil Jordan, produit par John Boorman. Un saxophoniste fait la connaissance d'une jeune femme venue assister à un concert de son groupe dans une boîte de nuit en Irlande. Soudain, une fusillade éclate qui tue le manager du groupe ainsi que la jeune fille qui se dirigeait vers la scène. Plutôt que d'aider les deux détectives chargés de retrouver les coupables, le saxophoniste fait le choix de retrouver lui-même et de les éliminer les uns après les autres. Centre britannique, le mercredi 3 septembre, à 18h.

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Gulf crisis, Soviet changes hurt Cuba

HAVANA (R) — President Fidel Castro has said the Gulf crisis and changes in the Soviet Union were hurting Cuba and he appealed for a new sacrifice to save the island nation's communist system from economic collapse.

"It is impossible to foresee what the situation will be in 1991... we might have to work with less and less and even with zero," the grey-bearded, 64-year-old leader said in a three-hour speech to chiefs of neighbourhood block committees Friday night.

The speech marked the 30th anniversary of the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, set up by Castro a year after he led the 1959 revolution that toppled right-wing dictator Fulgencio Batista.

Castro also cited growing disruptions in oil and other raw materials exported to Cuba from the Soviet Union, and Soviet plans to trade in convertible currency at world market prices from 1991 onwards.

This, coupled with soaring oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis, put a heavy squeeze on Cuba's sugar-exporting, oil-importing economy.

"Just work out what these two

factors mean for Cuba," Castro said.

For Cuba to continue buying each year the 13 million tonnes of oil it imported from the Soviet Union, he said, it would have to produce 26 million tonnes of sugar — an impossible figure that is more than three times its average annual harvest.

Castro said it was almost inevitable that Cuba would have to adopt an emergency austerity plan, known in official government jargon as "a special period in time of peace."

The authorities are already drastically restricting fuel distribution and extending rationing of food, clothes and other goods because of delays in Soviet shipments.

"The current limitations may become much more serious," Castro said.

"So what are we going to do? Give up the revolution, socialism, our independence? Never."

"We have to save our country, save the revolution, save socialism. That is our task."

He said the uncertainty surrounding Cuba's future economic relations with the Soviet Union had raised doubts about the fate of major economic projects being



Fidel Castro

built in south central Cuba. Construction of two of the plant's four planned reactors was under way but had been delayed.

"Will they ever be ready?" Castro asked. "We don't even know that."

Uncertainty also surrounded two nickel plants being developed with Soviet and East European help and a major oil refinery whose start-up had already been suspended because of the fuel crisis.

Castro said the Soviet government was making a big effort to comply with its economic commitments to Cuba this year despite its own economic, political and social crisis.

Gulf war doomsday scenario haunts economy policymakers

By Rich Miller
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Economic policymakers put a brave face on their ability to ride out the Gulf crisis at this week's annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, but beneath all the rhetoric lay an unspoken fear — what if war breaks out?

Just the spectre that this might happen sent oil prices skyrocketing to 10-year highs this week, a scenario barely envisioned in the carefully crafted economic forecasts of the IMF and the World Bank.

Both groups see the world economy weathering the oil shock without suffering a recession, but admit all bets are off if the stalemate in the Middle East turns into a shooting war.

"Provided the situation does not deteriorate sharply from the current projections, our best estimate is that the problems will remain manageable," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told the annual meeting.

However, the World Bank has put together an economic doomsday scenario that shows oil prices

soaring to \$65 if war breaks out.

That would be more than three times the price before Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and would be sure to trigger a global recession and an inflationary spiral.

In the dry words of the World Bank report, that outcome would be "qualitatively different" from that hoped for now.

"If... war breaks out in the Middle East, Iraqi, Kuwaiti and Saudi oil fields could suffer long-lasting damage, effectively removing up to 10 million barrels of oil per day from the world market," the World Bank said.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein raised the spectre of just such an occurrence earlier this week when he threatened to blow up oil fields in the Gulf, if his country is strangled by the sanctions.

"I don't know if the market is rational at this point. It's moving on emotion," said Steve Platt of Dean Witter Reynolds.

That sudden rise raised the possibility that even the bank's forecast of \$65 oil could prove too conservative in the event of hostilities.

The twin oil shocks of the 1970s — which saw oil prices first quadruple, then treble on top of that

— unleashed an economic nightmare that still haunts rich and poor countries alike.

The developing world is saddled with \$1.2 trillion of debt run up in the 1970s as commercial banks went on a lending spree with the petro-dollars they gathered from suddenly rich Arab sheikhs.

And industrial countries, especially the United States, have still not fully tamed the inflationary pressures that first reared up in that decade.

Bni officials here are quick to point out that some things have changed for the better since then.

The industrial world is more energy efficient and has set aside large stockpiles for just such an eventuality.

President George Bush said Wednesday he would crack open America's emergency reserves, selling five million barrels of oil in a bid to contain the skyrocketing prices.

In one sense, that decision could be taken a sign that Bush believes the diplomatic and economic drive to get Iraq out of Kuwait will work and war will not be necessary.

Energy agency chief says members will not sell oil reserves

PARIS (R) — Western member nations of the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) show no signs of copying the United States' test sale of strategic oil stocks, the organisation's chairman said Friday.

"We have no information that another country intends to make a test as the U.S. has," said Ulrich Engelmann, who was speaking at a news conference in Paris after the IEA's third meeting since the Gulf crisis.

But the West's energy watchdog agency called on its 21 member countries to prepare to draw on government stocks in case oil supplies decreased significantly.

It also asked them to prepare to introduce curbs on demand for oil, which could accompany such a stock draw.

"The Governing board has recommended that each member country now complete preparations and take all decisions necessary... to implement stock draw and or demand restraint," the IEA said in a statement.

It said it would convene a top-level meeting empowered to take action if world oil markets faced further shortages following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2.

No drawdown yet

Engelmann said, however: "We do not consider that the situation warrants governmental stock drawdown. The timing of such an action will be of the utmost importance."

President George Bush said Thursday the United States would hold a test sale of five million barrels of its 590 million-barrel strategic petroleum reserve.

The sale was intended as a

technical test of the reserve and was too small — equal to about six hours of oil demand in North America — to affect prices.

Eight weeks after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, world oil markets remain adequately supplied and member countries have experienced no shortfall in oil products, the IEA said.

"Available government-owned and government-controlled stocks and government-mandated demand restraint measures would be sufficient to meet any but the most extraordinary shortfall," it said.

But it said surplus capacity would be used up quickly in the event of a cold snap or an accident. This meant IEA countries must be prepared for rapid, coordinated action.

No shortage

As current higher oil prices reflect market speculation and not a physical shortage of oil, the United States is not expected to push the IEA to take immediate action.

"We don't see the urgency of pressing them so hard right now," U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins said Thursday. "Worldwide stocks right now are above the norm."

West Germany and Japan, two major oil importers, have also said they oppose an immediate drawdown of the estimated 1.7 billion barrels of oil held by governments and companies.

Oil prices have more than doubled since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, although output from the countries, banned from world markets by a U.N. trade embargo, has been largely offset by extra oil from other major producers.

U.S. budget negotiators race for an agreement

WASHINGTON (R) — Racing to a Sunday midnight deadline to start shutting down some government services, White House and congressional negotiators are sweating over a deficit-cutting plan that might even include politically explosive trims in social security pension benefits.

Some bargainers were optimistic they would meet the Oct. 1 fiscal year 1991 deadline, although they were also worried about getting congress to approve a pact that might be too unpopular with voters.

Bush's envoys — White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Budget Director Richard Darman — were meeting late Friday with five congressional leaders to work out the voluntary deficit-reduction package in a bid to avoid chaotic cuts in government services.

Under the German-Rndman deficit-reduction law, automatic government spending cuts of about \$100 billion will begin Monday morning and result in lay-offs of thousands of federal workers — from air traffic controllers to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents.

Besides apparent White House willingness to soften somewhat Bush's demand for a capital gains tax-cut as part of the package, one measure of the heat the negotiators felt was the disclosure they were discussing possible trims in social security to help bring deficits down.

Normally, the social security old-age and welfare benefits programme is politically sacrosanct, especially in an election year like this one.

But Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Democrat of Texas, said in a television interview that social

security was indeed on the negotiating table.

"What you're seeing thrown up as options is a delay in the benefits, COLA (cost of living allowance) delay of three or four months, whatever that might be, or an alternative of taxing the income of those that have more income on social security benefits," Bentsen said.

"And those two options — and they're very painful, politically explosive options — are on the table. And they've been discussed by each side," he added.

Later, House of Representatives Republican Leader Bob Michel of Illinois, one of the budget negotiators, said rank-and-file Republicans favoured the option of freezing cost-of-living adjustments on social security for three or four months.

But the Democrats favoured increasing the top income subject to the social security tax, Michel said, adding that from the Republican viewpoint "a tax increase is tougher."

As the bargainers bagged over such issues as social security and what if any form of capital gains reduction Bush might get, some of them seemed to be putting out feelers on selling whatever agreement might be found.

House Democratic Majority leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri indicated on Friday that there would be much in the package that members of Congress and their constituents would dislike.

"If we get a package I would hope people would look at the positive side of getting it done and having deficit reduction," he said. "If all of us just focus on the individual negative features we're going to miss the forest for the trees."

Bally luxury shoes put best foot forward to keep market place

By Samantha McArthur
Reuters

ZURICH — Luxury shoemaker Bally of Switzerland, set up 140 years ago by a braces manufacturer because he didn't know his wife's shoe size, is battling to hold its market position in a fiercely competitive fashion world.

Among its diversified products are shower gel and cuff-links as part of efforts to attract a younger following.

Last year, Bally International Limited sold more than eight million pairs of shoes generating group sales of 1.25 billion Swiss francs (\$960 million).

Bally has, however, 300,000 shoes aimed at young men, consumers and produces accessories from cuff-links to shower gel.

crowded ladies footwear category, and has realised it must change with the times.

Although Bally's tradition-steeped image has served it well, it has also proved an albatross around the management's neck.

"When funeral bells rang, we used to say 'there goes another Bally customer'. Old people died and we weren't building new clientele," said spokesman Lothar Landau.

"We've had to realise that shoes are a fickle fashion industry."

The group has recently brought out a range of less expensive shoes, experimental shoes aimed at young men, consumers and produces accessories from cuff-links to shower gel.

This autumn's Bally advertisements picture glamorous models striking off-beat poses. One has a girl with stiletto heels pressed like headphones to her ears.

Management style too has moved away from the elitism which characterised it even during the early 1980s, Landau says, and communication has become Bally's buzz word. Staff are urged to "love the product through the spread of shoe culture."

Bally came about some 140 years ago when a braces maker called Carl Franz Bally promised his wife he would bring her a pair of shoes from Paris.

But he forgot to ask her shoe size before he left and was forced to return to Switzerland with a dozen pairs of varying

sizes so that one pair at least would fit.

During the long journey home Bally pondered how he could turn what was then a luxury item into a commodity. With the creation of a tiny shoe factory in his own cellar where his apprentices ate, slept and worked, Bally shoes began.

Simple shoes, folk

Carl Bally's idea was to make simple shoes for simple folk, but today, Bally shoes grace the most fashionable city centres.

Inside Bally's 19th century store on Zurich's opulent Bahnhofstrasse, ladies perch on leather sofas while discreet assistants help them to a vast array of luxury shoes.

SMALL DOG FOR SALE

Silver Poodle, 4 months old.

Please call 833203

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Daewoo, Royal salon, 2000 cc, 1988 model, 59,000 kilometre, with air condition, electric glass and mirror, stereo, centre lock, price JD 11,000. Can be exchanged for a Mercedes with customs duty unpaid. Call tel: 847255

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Excellent condition, automatic, power steering, A/C, electrical windows, central lock, radio. DUTY UNPAID, price JD 4,500 (not negotiable) Tel: 680965

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Teaching includes physics for IGCSE and International Baccalaureate Courses (equivalent to GCE "O" and "A" level).

Application forms may be obtained from the school, telephone 845572 - 847191 and returned by Tuesday Oct. 2, 1990.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE

MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION/
WATER AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
TENDER NO. 18/90/SP
SUPPLY OF BLACK STEEL PIPES

1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of 30 km 8" and 12 km 12" Black Steel Pipes.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Black Steel Pipes.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100, Telex 22439 JO, Fax 679143.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by an eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 200.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in the Conditions of Contract and must be delivered to the above office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday 20/10/1990.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority

HELP WANTED

A live-in Filipina maid wanted to start work immediately for a diplomatic mission. Must have references and a good command of English.

Please call 673246 for appointment.

IMMEDIATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A new five-star restaurant in Amman is looking for captain waiters - waitresses - bar-man - cooks - assistant cooks - and stewards.
* Applicants should have minimum four years experience and good knowledge of English language.

For more details, please call at this number 698061.

PERSIAN CARPET FOR SALE

Qum silk quality
For details please contact tel: 652676 Amman (Bassam)

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Excellent location in Shmeisani overlooking Wadi Saqra. Two bedrooms, living/dining hall, modern kitchen, two bathrooms, separate central heating, T.V., Video, washing machine and dryer, telephone, two separate entrances, two terraces, surrounded by a garden.

Please call tel: 608947

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD Invitation to tender No. 22F/90

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 22F/90 for the supply of (chemicals, glassware and lab equipment).
The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, supply department until 2:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday 23.10.1990. Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD 15 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submission of tender is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday, Oct. 30, 1990.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

TODAY AT

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
in
1-KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 P.M.
2- MONEY MANIA
5:15, p.m.

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571
Fuad Al Muhandes,
Mohammed Subhi,
Ilham Shahin
in
ADOLESCENCE
SITUATION
(Arabic)
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155
LICENCE TO KILL
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
Mahmoud Abdul Aziz &
Maali Zayed ...
in
LADIES AND
MADMOISELLES
(Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
Mahmoud Abdul Aziz -
Maali Zayed
in
LADIES AND
MADMOISELLES
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

S. African union leader urges Dutch to keep sanctions

ANC leaders assail government at 1st conference in 30 years

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's white government still wants blacks to "bow down to their bayonets and jackboots," an African National Congress (ANC) leader said at a conference in Cape Town Saturday.

The ANC Saturday opened regional conferences in Johannesburg and Cape Town, the first since President F.W. de Klerk legalised the movement after 30 years in exile.

The last major ANC meeting in South Africa was a national congress in 1959, shortly before the movement was banned and two years before its leader, Nelson Mandela, was jailed.

ANC Treasurer Thomas Nkobi, a member of the policy-making National Executive Committee, told about 500 delegates to the Cape Town conference that De Klerk's government was following a two-pronged policy of negotiation and destabilisation.

"They are using every vile tactic to weaken our movement. The vicious violence unleashed on the reef (Johannesburg) is aimed at destroying our spirit of resistance and defiance. They want us to bow down to their bayonets and

jackboots," he said. Nkobi said the black township violence that has claimed almost 800 lives since mid-August was being fuelled by the police and the military.

Reg September, leader of the ANC in the western Cape Province, said the movement should concentrate on recruiting members and organising branches.

"We are moving from the politics of protest to the politics of the challenge for power."

"We need to channel the skill, the energy, the courage which went into challenging the regime on the streets into challenging them in the political arena," he said.

In Johannesburg, Mandela's former cellmate and now the internal leader of the ANC, Walter Sisulu, said the ANC was poised to lead the people into the last lap of the struggle for democracy.

"For the ANC to play a leading role in the struggle of the people, we must attract all the people of South Africa," he said.

ANC officials said a series of regional conferences would prepare the movement for its first

national congress since 1959 in Johannesburg in December.

They said ANC leaders appointed from within the underground organisation would stand for election by members for the first time in December and policies would be ironed out in debate.

In another development, the leader of South Africa's biggest trade union federation urged the Netherlands Saturday to retain economic sanctions against Pretoria despite De Klerk's reforms of apartheid.

"It would be the gravest political mistake to lift sanctions and help De Klerk with his problems," Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), said in a speech to a Dutch trade union group in Amsterdam.

"Pressure must be maintained to force De Klerk to bring about genuine political change," he said. "Internationally we need more political support than we've ever needed in the past."

De Klerk and his Foreign Minister P.W. Botha are due to travel to the Netherlands on Oct.

23 in the first official visit by a South African head of state in more than 40 years.

The invitation by the Dutch government, one of Pretoria's sternest European critics and a strong advocate of sanctions, is widely seen as a success for the reformist De Klerk in his bid to end South Africa's decades of isolation.

But Naidoo, whose organisation represents about one million black workers and is closely allied with the African National Congress (ANC), accused De Klerk's government of playing a double game by urging further political reform while using the security forces to fan tensions among the black opposition.

"It's a very dangerous game that the government is involved in," Naidoo said. "On the one hand it recognises and is desperate for a political solution. On the other, it wants to control the process so that we end up with a post-apartheid society with power still in the hands of a minority."

"There is incontrovertible evidence that the security forces are fuelling the violence in South Africa," Naidoo said.

Polish Senate clears way for free elections

WARSAW (R) — The Polish Senate cleared a way Saturday for the nation's first popular presidential election that could make Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa head of state.

Walesa, who has spearheaded a drive for ex-Communist President Wojciech Jaruzelski's departure, has announced that he will stand for the presidency in an election that could be held as early as Nov. 25.

The Polish News Agency, PAP, said the Senate, parliament's upper chamber, approved without reservation a legislative package passed by the Sejm (lower house) this week and submitted it to Jaruzelski for his signature.

The legislative procedure will be completed when Sejm Marshal (speaker) Mikolaj Kozaliewicz announces the poll, a move expected Monday, parliamentary sources said.

The Sejm voted overwhelming Thursday to create a five-year presidential term, limited to a single re-election, and to have the head of state elected for the first time by universal suffrage.

Earlier the Sejm had cut short the six-year term of Jaruzelski who was narrowly elected by the National Assembly (joint session of Sejm and Senate) in July 1989 but in recent months came under mounting pressure to resign.

Pakistan, India clash over Kashmir at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Pakistan and India clashed fiercely over Kashmir at the United Nations, with Pakistan alleging atrocities in the Indian-held state, and India accusing Islamabad of interference.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan opened the attack, telling the General Assembly that almost 300,000 Indian troops were seeking to crush what he called the spontaneous uprising of the Kashmiri people.

"Thousands of innocent people, including women and children, have been murdered, injured and incarcerated. Houses have been burnt down; women have been molested..." he said.

But Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, speaking later, accused Pakistan of sponsoring terrorism in the strife-torn northern region, where Muslim insurgents are fighting for

independence from Hindu-dominated India.

This had resulted in "extensive misery and loss of human lives," he said.

Yaqub-Khan described the Indian charges of interference as baseless and unfounded and said the unrest in Kashmir was entirely indigenous.

"India has, however, sought to raise the bogey of alleged interference by Pakistan as a smoke-screen to mislead the international community," Yaqub-Khan said.

He said India had sought to intimidate Pakistan with a menacing concentration of troops in Kashmir along the India-Pakistan border.

Pakistan has proposed that a neutral body monitor the events in Kashmir, but Yaqub-Khan said: "India has regrettably rejected our offer."

Albania wants to abandon isolation in Europe — Alia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Ramiz Alia, the first Albanian head of state to address the U.N. General Assembly in decades, says his long-isolated Communist nation now wants to be "an active participant" in reshaping Europe.

In his clearest public commitment to reform, Alia told the United Nations Friday that Albania will seek full membership of the Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE).

Albania was the only European nation not to join the 35-nation CSCE process that began when the Helsinki final act was signed by European states, the Soviet Union, United States and Canada in 1975.

Since the death of Albania's Communist founder Enver Hoxha in 1985, Alia has gradually brought the isolated Balkan nation that borders the Adriatic more into contact with the international community.

37th bomb explodes in Philippines

MANILA (R) — A bomb exploded Saturday outside a Manila complex belonging to the U.S. company Procter and Gamble, but there were no casualties, police said.

The 37th blast in the Philippine capital in seven weeks damaged the pavement in front of the complex housing a single-storey drug plant and two-storey administrative building of Procter and Gamble Philippine Manufacturing Corp., a subsidiary of the U.S. firm.

The military blames the bombings on right-wing army rebels seeking to overthrow President Corason Aquino.

The bomb attack was one of a series this week against U.S. companies. The military has blamed the attacks on army rebels who have launched six coup

attempts against Aquino since she took power more than four years ago.

The rebels have warned they will not let Aquino finish her term which ends in 1992.

Meanwhile Communist rebels warned the government of Aquino Saturday against forging a secret deal with the United States on extending the stay of American bases in the country.

The Communist umbrella group National Democratic Front made the warning in a statement issued to news agencies.

The front, comprising 14 underground Marxist organisations, includes the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the 19,000-member New People's Army.

"We hope that the Aquino government will desist from its

continuing attacks on the people's livelihood, economic well-being and democratic rights, and from forging secret deals with the U.S. to end the (U.S. military) bases' tenure and justify it by so many deceptive formulas," the statement said.

The front said any deals extending the stay of U.S. forces in the country can "only aggravate the crisis, further divide the nation and close the avenue to peace."

The lease allowing the United States to use Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base and four other installations expires on Sept. 16, 1991. Any extension would have to be in the form of a treaty approved by the 23-member Philippine Senate.

where opposition to the U.S. bases is strong.

Thatcher remains on IRA hit list

LONDON (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA), which has carried out a series of recent attacks in its bid to end British rule in Northern Ireland, has warned that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher could be one of its next targets.

In an interview in Saturday's issue of the Independent newspaper, an IRA military strategist said a number of fresh attacks was planned.

"We will increasingly bring the war to the attention of the British public, and to the doorsteps of those (politicians) who sustain the conflict," the unnamed official said.

Thatcher has said she will not be intimidated by IRA threats and has vowed never to give in to its demands.

The IRA official said that Thatcher, who narrowly escaped death when the IRA bombed a Conservative Party conference six years ago in the resort town of Brighton, was still a top target and would remain in the firing line after leaving office.

"She was almost killed and I think that our words about Brighton still haunt her: 'Today we were unlucky. But remember, we only have to be lucky once. You will have to be lucky always,'" he said.

"At her age you should be looking forward to retirement... it'll be very hard to enjoy your retirement with a permanent bodyguard."

The IRA boasted Friday that it could strike "at will" after managing to plant a bomb at a London anti-terrorism conference which had been patrolled by police and a private security firm.

The bomb, timed to go off Thursday morning during a scheduled address by Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, was spotted by staff at the building and defused by police shortly before the conference was to begin.

Waldegrave had postponed his speech at the last minute and would have escaped the blast, but the IRA's apparent ease in entering the building has renewed a debate about Britain's security against guerrilla attacks.

Nigerians parade military might; artillery fire jeopardises peace

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Nigerian troops paraded tanks in a show of force through Monrovia Friday as the sounds of gunfire indicated a weeklong ceasefire was in danger of collapse in the Liberian capital.

Meanwhile, a Nigerian freighter carrying 150 tons of rice, canned food and cooking oil was unloaded in port — the first major food shipment since July to reach a capital where even the most basic of foodstuffs are in scarce supply.

About 1,100 West African troops arrived in Monrovia this week with a new field commander, Nigeria's Brig. Gen. Joshua Dogonyaro.

Gen. Dogonyaro toured the city in a long motorcade that included Mohawk tanks and armoured personnel carriers. He also met at the U.S. embassy with Ambassador Peter de Vos, and called on the British Charge d'Affaires, Steven Seaman.

Rebel leader Charles Taylor had vowed to attack the five-nation West African Task Force if it sent reinforcements.

Military experts and diplomats said cannon fire heard in the morning appeared to come from Taylor's rebels. It wasn't known who, if anyone, the guns were levelled upon.

Taylor, who has declared himself provisional president of Liberia, announced a unilateral truce Saturday that has been respected by the opposing rebel army of Prince Johnson and by troops remaining loyal to slain President Samuel Doe.

Taylor wants to organise elections Oct. 10 to choose a cabinet to lead the country — but insists that he must head any government. Taylor began the 9-month-old civil war when he invaded from Ivory Coast in December. Doe was tortured and slain by

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Prince Johnson's rebels this month.

Taylor's right to the presidency is challenged by Prince Johnson and by political science Professor Amos Sawyer. Sawyer was chosen interim president at a meeting of Liberian exiles on Aug. 30 held under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States.

Under the West African plan, Sawyer would return to organise elections in which he would not be allowed to be a candidate. Taylor has refused to let Sawyer return, saying he is a puppet of the West Africans.

Sawyer arrived in Sierra Leone Friday and said he would return to Monrovia when it was safe to do so.

Taylor's force has been estimated at as many as 15,000 troops, but most are untrained teenagers.

Japan defence aide tells U.S. military to go home

TOKYO (AP) — A Self Defence Agency official harshly criticised pending U.S. legislation threatening a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Japan if Japan does not bear their full cost, news reports said Saturday.

"Go ahead and go home" said an unidentified high-ranking official of the Self Defence Agency, quoted by the nationally-circulated Asahi Shimbun.

"The U.S. Congress is being ridiculous. We have never asked (the U.S. military) to stay in Japan," the official said.

The Defence Agency would not confirm the official's comments.

The U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month overwhelmingly passed a bill demanding the pullout of 5,000 U.S. soldiers from Japan if it does not agree to pay all the expenses covering the 50,000 U.S. military

personnel stationed here. The bill has not yet been passed by the Senate.

In the current fiscal year, Japan is paying 365.6 billion yen (\$2.7 billion), or about 45 per cent of the cost of maintaining the 50,000 U.S. forces in Japan, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Japan has been steadily increasing its share of paying the expenses for the U.S. military in recent years, often in response to U.S. requests to bear more of the burden.

Kyodo News Service said many officials in the Defence Agency oppose U.S. demands for increased spending on the bases because the expenditures would eat up other parts of Japan's defence budget.

Japan has limited its defence budget to about 1 per cent of the country's gross national product.

Bhutto to appear before tribunal

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Saturday she will appear before a tribunal on charges of misconduct and abuse of power during her 20 months in office.

"I don't recognise the tribunals," Ms. Bhutto said after a speech before the Karachi Chamber of Commerce. "But I will go there and my lawyer will present my objections."

The special one-judge court is to hear the case Sunday in Karachi.

The 37-year-old former premier was also expected to appear before another tribunal in the eastern city of Lahore Tuesday on two similar charges.

If she is convicted of any of the four charges, she could be disqualified as a candidate in the Oct. 24 elections and barred from politics for seven years.

Ms. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has also been summoned before the Sindh High Court Sunday for allegedly failing to cooperate in police investigations into high-level corruption.

Zardari, a 38-year-old businessman, has been charged with Ms. Bhutto's problems, allegedly ignored several official requests to answer questions by the Federal Investigation Agency.

Ms. Bhutto was elected to office in November 1988.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, using his constitutional power, dismissed Ms. Bhutto's government on Aug. 6 and installed a caretaker government comprised largely of her opponents and former allies.

In a stinging and lengthy indictment, Ishaq Khan accused Ms. Bhutto's government of corruption, incompetence and abuse of power, alleging among other things that it plundered the national treasury, used hundreds of millions of rupees (tens of millions of dollars) in special funds to buy votes and political favours and awarded lucrative business deals to friends and relatives.

Ms. Bhutto has denied any wrongdoing and accused the president and the caretaker government of launching a witch hunt against her, her government and her left-leaning Pakistan People's Party.

Serbia prepares for elections as violence continues in Croatia

BELGRADE (R) — Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, Saturday launched preparations for its first free multi-party elections since World War II.

Its parliament Friday proclaimed a new constitution paving the way for the elections, to be held on Dec. 9, and curbing the autonomy of the republic's two provinces, Vojvodina and Kosovo.

Fresh flurries of violence swept Croatia, the second biggest republic and Serbia's traditional rival. Members of the Serbian minority clashed with Croatian policemen in the towns of Petrinja, Glina and Dvor na Uni, Tanjug news agency reported.

It said Serbian demonstrators broke into a police station in Dvor na Uni Friday night and seized firearms.

Belgrade television showed special police in riot gear using tear gas and truncheons against

some 1,000 protesters in Petrinja. Belgrade newspapers said scores of people had been beaten and many suffered head injuries.

Serbs number about 600,000 of Croatia's 4.5 million population. The new constitution in Serbia was likely to be opposed by the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo province. Serbia suspended Kosovo's parliament and government in July after Albanian deputies declared independence.

More than 50 people have been killed in Kosovo since March 1989 in riots by Albanians, who outnumber Serbs there by nine to one.

Serbia has blamed the trouble on separatists who it says want to annex the province to neighbouring Albania.

Opposition activist Isuf Berisa told reporters the new constitution was "imposed by force and therefore is not a legal constitution."

representative of all people in Kosovo.

Serbian Parliament President Zoran Sokolovic said the constitution would guarantee equal rights to all citizens regardless of nationality, religion or political belief.

He said it would also guarantee the integrity of Serbian territory and a free, democratic society.

Communists were ousted from power in free elections in Croatia and Slovenia last spring, and the remaining four republics will hold free elections by the end of this year.

Amid growing ethnic tensions and political quarrels, the Yugoslav state presidency has proposed a referendum on the country's future, possibly this year.

Secessionist moves by the new right-wing Croatian leadership have sparked fears among Serbs who recall its role as a Nazi puppet state in World War II.

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1,000 prisoners of conscience held in China — Asia Watch

PEKING (AP) — A U.S.-based human rights group Friday issued a list of about 1,000 prisoners of conscience being held in Chinese jails — the most comprehensive accounting to date of such detainees.

Most of the prisoners listed by Asia Watch, a New York-based human rights group, were arrested after the June 4, 1989, military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Sidney Jones, Asia Watch's executive director, said the aim of the report was to keep the prisoners from being forgotten.

"We are concerned that human rights in China as an issue is going to fade from public view... We want to make sure that these names become very much in the public eye," she said in a telephone interview.

Asia Watch also hopes the report will help gain the release of those listed, she said. The group planned to try to give a copy to Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who is in New York City to attend the opening of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Chinese government did not immediately respond to the report. It generally rejects criticism of its human rights record as interference in internal affairs.

Thousands of Chinese nationwide were detained or arrested immediately after last year's massive, student-led democracy

movement was put down. The Asia Watch report lists the names and backgrounds of the 867 prisoners whose cases are known, and enumerates about 200 other arrests as well as executions reported by the official Chinese media without giving names.

Only 226 of the 1,000 prisoners listed in the report have been tried. Sixty-seven were sentenced to death or executed.

Called "Repression in China Since June 4, 1989," the report is far more comprehensive than those issued previously by Asia Watch and other international human rights groups.

It includes people from every segment of society — students, intellectuals, peasants, workers, and government officials — from all 29 of China's provinces and regions.

"The focus has been on Peking when people think about (the crackdown), but it's been widespread throughout China," Jones said.

The government has announced the release of 881 people in Peking and Shanghai over the past year, but has refused to say how many remain in jail nationwide for political offenses.

Among those named in the report are such well-known figures as Liu Xiaobo, a literary critic who was on a fellowship at Columbia University when the Democracy Movement began

Summit for children opens with gala dinner

UNITED NATIONS (R) — From Albania to Zimbabwe, about 70 world leaders came to the United Nations Saturday for a gala dinner to inaugurate a unique summit for children.

Sponsored by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the event is designed to focus media attention on kings, presidents and prime ministers in a position to improve the lot of children.

"There can be no task nobler than giving every child a better future," says the draft of a declaration to be signed by the leaders at the end of their meeting Sunday.

But the draft also reflects the universality of adults' mistreatment of children in bonded labour, prostitution and abandonment, as well as the poverty affecting billions of people of all ages around the world.

And despite strong language in

the draft supporting the family as an institution, the declaration also seeks to protect children from abusive parents and by implication makes the state and the community at large responsible for their welfare.

U.S. President George Bush is attending, along with politicians as diverse in their views as Albania's Ramiz Alia, Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel, Uganda's Yoweri Museveni and Argentina's Carlos Menem, to name just a few.

Missing from the conference will be the children themselves, although a group will make a symbolic appearance to read the declaration at the closing ceremonies.

The only women leaders are British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro and Dominica

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles. Geography and problems at home are reflected in the guest list, limited to head of government or heads of state.

Only two are from the Middle East — the Emir of Kuwait and the Prime Minister of Lebanon. Some 20 come from the Americas, 23 from Europe, 17 from Africa and eight from Asia.

Among specific goals the draft asks the world to meet within a decade are a drastic reduction of child and maternal mortality rates, malnutrition and adult illiteracy rates, particularly among women.

In addition, the leaders are to pledge themselves to provide an education for at least 80 per cent of all school-aged children in the world by the year 2000.

Non country is singled out by name but there is an obvious

reference to South Africa's discriminatory racial practices and Middle East tensions, in a reference to the "plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances as victims of apartheid and foreign occupation."

Bush is to announce a programme to eliminate polio, measles and other childhood diseases as well as efforts to help children suffering from AIDS, the new scourge that threatens to wipe out decades of medical advances.

Several European leaders have said they will use their Sunday speeches to stress the importance of family planning as a necessary goal to improving conditions for the great majority of children.

Most unusual for any U.N. gathering will be the length of their speeches — limited to four or five minutes.

COLUMN

'Brain dead' man not dead after all

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina (AP) — Doctors asked to remove the organs of a man they thought had been killed in a traffic accident knew something was wrong when his foot twitched.

Curt Coleman Clark wasn't really dead. Clark, 22, was pronounced brain dead after he suffered severe head injuries in a car crash near Granite Falls in central North Carolina. After his family agreed to donate his organs, he was placed on a respirator and taken by ambulance from Fyfe Regional Medical Centre in Hickory to Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, about 150 miles (240 kilometres) away. Doctors there noticed the man's foot move, said Dr. Jesse H. Meredith, a transplant surgeon at the hospital.

Hospital spokesman Roger F. Rollman said Clark was then taken to the intensive-care unit where more signs of life were detected. He was in critical condition Friday, said nursing supervisor Dale Spangh. Highway patrol officials said Clark was hurt when he lost control of his car on a curve and it flipped several times. Radiologists who examined him after he arrived at Fyfe concluded he was brain dead, said Dennis Phillips, the hospital's executive director.

Beer tycoon starts 2nd career in jazz

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Retired Dutch beer baron Freddy Heineken has launched a new career as a composer of easy listening jazz, the company that made his first compact disc said.